

**GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL  
EDUCATION  
Education Committee Meeting**

**LOCATION  
Governor's Council Conference Room  
3601 C Street  
Anchorage, Alaska  
Teleconference**

**Meeting Date  
March 10, 2011**

**Attendees:**

Anna Attla, Chair  
Julie Broyles, Chair  
Eric Gebhart  
Tonja Updike  
Ernie Manzie  
Fred Villa

**Community Members/Guests:**

Geri Benshoof  
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus  
Terese Kashi  
Kay Holmes  
Debbie Kitelinger

**Staff:**

Teresa Holt  
Heidi Frost

Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo  
Peninsula Reporting

**CALL TO ORDER – 2:00 p.m.**  
**ROLL CALL**

**Welcome from the Chair**

**Announcements and Good News**

Teresa Holt announced that Don Enoch has been hired to replace Art Arnold as the special education administrator.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus announced that she will be traveling to Juneau with the FASD Partnership.

**Election of New Voting Members**

Item was tabled until the next meeting.

**Approval of the Agenda**

There was not a quorum.

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

There was not a quorum, and the approval of the previous meeting minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

**Correspondence**

***Inclusive Practice Award***

Teresa Holt stated that they had a full hour to do the presentation of the Inclusive Practice Award at ASSEC. She thanked Tonja Updike and Eric Gebhart for presenting on stage.

Teresa stated that she e-mailed all the Education Committee members the list of nominees and sent press releases to the Anchorage Daily News and the Fairbanks Miner.

Teresa stated that she got a lot of positive feedback at ASSEC about the Inclusive Practice Award and had a suggestion to do a PowerPoint with each

nominee's picture on the screen with a little biography underneath.

### *Restraint and Seclusion Letter*

Teresa Holt stated that she sent out the letter to the Education Committee members, and the parts that are in yellow are the areas that were changed. She stated that she and Eric Gebhart did a presentation at ASSEC about restraint and seclusion and they received some comments that she wants to go over with the Education Committee.

She stated that they added a sentence that stated that if a student is restrained, there should be an examination by a nurse immediately following and 48 hours after the incident to check for injuries. At ASSEC it was brought to their attention that if the student lived in a remote sight, there may not be a nurse available. There was also a question of who should pay for those visits. Teresa commented that what they discussed was that each local community would need to come up with a plan using the resources that they have for someone to do those two visits.

Discussion ensued and the following suggestions were made:

- The hope would be that schools would follow the standard protocols for any child who might have sustained an injury during school.
- Specify school nurse, medical representative, or two responsible adults.
- People who are doing the evaluations should not be the person who did the restraining.

Teresa Holt suggested changing the wording to: "If a student is restrained, there should be an examination immediately following and 48 hours after the incident to check for injuries, following the usual protocol for injuries."

Teresa stated that another area of discussion was regarding all school staff who have direct contact with students being trained. Teresa stated that ASSEC participants told her and Eric that there is no way they could get all their staff trained, particularly in rural or remote areas. They suggested a minimum of three staff per site and suggested that the group contains both males and females.

Discussion ensued and the following suggestions were made:

- They shouldn't put a number on it because there are many people in contact with the students throughout the day.
- Administration should also be trained.

### Comments for the State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee (SVRC)

Teresa Holt stated that she is collecting comments from the Education Committee and the Rural Services Ad Hoc Committee on the SVRC's transition topic. She stated that she will e-mail a copy of those comments out to committee members when she has them completed.

### Other Correspondence

Teresa Holt stated that they received a request from Deborah Kroll asking the Council to go to the State Board of Education and ask that physician's assistants or nurse practitioners be able to sign off on the school paperwork for students that have ADHD so they can be found eligible under "other health impaired".

Discussion ensued.

Terese Kashi commented that she is afraid it would lead to "shopping for diagnoses" when there are people less qualified to diagnose.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus stated that people are currently not able to get a diagnosis of ADHD in her community.

Terese Kashi noted that in the State regulations, it states that in order to certify under other health impaired, an individual must have a physician's note.

Teresa Holt suggested tabling this until the next meeting once committee members have a chance to review the State regulations.

### Legislative Activity

Teresa Holt highlighted the following bills of interest of the Council and the Education Committee and encouraged members to contact their legislators:

- SB 10 – Removal of the HSGQE – **introduced and no movement**
- SB 73/HB 143 – Intensive needs funding bills – **moving**

- SB 6/HB 154 – Universal pre-K for 3 and 4 year olds
- HB 49 – Parents as Teachers
- HB 104 – Funding for the Alaska Performance Scholarship.

### **Review of Indicator 4**

Teresa Holt stated that indicator 4 is the percent of districts that have a significant discrepancy in the rate of suspensions and expulsions of greater than 10 days in a school year for children with IEPs.

Teresa referred committee members to page 20 of the indicator to review the targets that they set. She reminded everyone that to be discrepant, a district has to have three times more for children on IEPs than it would for the general population. She also noted that districts that have less than ten children are not included in these numbers. She stated that in 2004/2005 there was a 9.3 percent discrepancy. It has gone down to 5.8 in 2008/2009.

Tonja Updike stated that in her area, she hears that a lot of times parents are called to pick their child up from school because of behavior issues. The children are out of school more than they should be, but the school doesn't actually call it suspension. She commented that her son would use this as positive reinforcement to get out of doing school work if it were used on him.

Julie Broyles stated that in high school it's more common to do in-school suspensions for kids on IEPs where they are pulled out of their classrooms and sent to a time-out room. Heidi Frost stated that transition coordinators are echoing the same thing. Julie felt that those numbers in the indicator don't reflect the actual problem because schools are just calling it something else.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus commented that the services should be appropriate to begin with, and there should be a plan set in place to address these behavioral incidents.

A summary of suggestions from committee members is as follows:

- Increase positive behavioral support training for all school staff
- Training on functional behavior assessments and best practices
- Assistance for IEP teams to build a positive behavior intervention plan
- Implementing school-wide PBS program

- Disability training for staff, particularly general ed teachers.

As a side note, Teresa Holt stated that she and Art Arnold attended a meeting at the University of Alaska Southeast to give input as to the curriculum for a four-year special education teacher program. They gave the following suggestions on curriculum content to include:

- Training on early childhood
- Assessments, both special ed and quick data functional RTI assessments
- Foundations of special education course which would include training on IDEA, IEPs, the special ed handbook
- Classes on reading intervention
- Classes on math intervention
- How to collaborate with families and working with related services
- How to do inclusion
- Positive behavioral supports (one or two classes)
- Assistive technology imbedded into all of the situations where it could be used
- Transition and vocational education
- Practicums for the reading intervention, math intervention, PBS.

Julie Broyles asked if the special ed teacher with this degree would only be able to teach in a self-contained special ed class. Teresa Holt stated that she would get back to her on that.

### **Report from the State Board of Education**

Geri Benshoof stated that they had a conference call meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup> to do some edits and changes to the regulations for fund balance. They adopted the standards for the Alaska Performance Scholarship program. She stated that another one of the things they did was move the pilot project for pre-school programs into a permanent status.

Geri stated that their next meeting is next week. She also noted that their new commissioner has had a lot of contacts with the legislators since he took office on March 1<sup>st</sup>. She stated that she is looking forward to working with the new commissioner.

## **Report from SESA**

There was no report from SESA available for this meeting. Teresa Holt noted that Lori Roth is no longer at SESA.

## **Report from DEED**

There was no report from DEED available for this meeting.

## **Important Future Meetings/Conferences/Trainings**

- State Board of Education and Early Development, March 17 – 18 in Juneau
- Council meeting, May 3 – 5, 2011, Seward.

## **Time and Date of Next Meeting**

The next teleconference for the Education Committee is scheduled for April 14, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.

Teresa Holt asked that committee members think about work plan priorities and conferences and trainings they would like to attend during the next year for discussion at the April meeting.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.