

SHARING THE COMMITMENT

An Exceptional Student Education Advisory Committee

MEETING MINUTES
May 12, 2009



Members: Dr. Victoria Sartorio, Wilbur Hawke, Bob Spano, Ken Fairbanks, Debbie Tihen, Jennifer Smith, Adella Spinella, Barb Southwick, Dr. Katrina Nedley, Debby Ramassini, Rosa Martinez

Members Absent: Dr. Elizabeth McBride, Myra Shapiro, Dr. Lynn Wilder

Guests: Allman Todd, Peg Sullivan

Agenda and Meeting Minutes

A consensus agreement was reached to approve the agenda as presented, as well as, the meeting minutes from March 10, 2009.

Old Business

Stipends for Sensitivity Awareness Training Trainers

Karen Stelmacki reported that in March 2008, the ESE Advisory agreed to provide a \$200 stipend to each parent trainer for their planning, organizing, and delivery of a Sensitivity Awareness Training (full-day event) at a Collier public school. In 2008-09, the IDEA grant provided for two (2) trainers per event; ten total schools. Today, two of the trainers are PEER parents and one is a parent volunteer. Members proposed to conduct 10 additional school trainings, including kits for each school, and to continue to pay a \$200 stipend to each parent trainer in 2009-10 (2 trainers per event). Total costs include: \$4,000 for stipends and \$4,660 for 10 kits (\$466 per kit). FDLRS agreed to sponsor \$1,200 in stipends (2 trainers at \$200 each x 3 events). Jennifer Smith agreed to contact Stand Wesser to inquire if Florida Inclusion Network could provide funds for kits and/or stipends. Debby Ramassini will contact Kiwanis and Rotary Club to see if they would be interested in funding any kits or stipends.

The Sensitivity Awareness Training committee will meet to explore the use of high school student volunteers during these events. It was mentioned that Dale Johnson is a district contact person concerning student volunteer hours.

Parent Library Continuation

Dr. Sartorio indicated that there are still 16 Collier public schools that do not have libraries. It is the Advisory's goal to fund at least eight new libraries in 2009-10, and then again in 2010-11. Members support funding 10 libraries in 2009-10 if \$15,180 is available. To obtain a Parent Library, interested schools are asked to organize and support a site-based training team, comprised of parents-teachers, and offer at least one parent training.

Collaborative Partners Updates:

- **Family Network on Disabilities (FND)** Wilbur Hawke shared with members that he just returned from O'ahu and reported that the state of Hawaii is planning to adopt the Sharing The Commitment (STC) model, including an advisory, PEER parents, and the

site-based training model. Wilbur reported that he was asked to go to Hawaii by their parent education center and that Hawaii sends their Mahalo (thank you in Hawaiian) to you!

Wilbur announced the addition of a third PEER parent, Lisa Nieto, for the Immokalee area. He also stated that the site-based training teams (identifying parents/teachers with support of ESE Program Specialist) will continue to be encouraged at the school level; Dr. Sartorio will again let principals know that parent support/training is available. In collaboration with FDLR and FND, a variety of training topics are made available to schools. Site-based teams are encouraged for the purpose of information dissemination. Ken Fairbanks suggested that a presentation be made to principals (sharing of trainings, materials, etc.) and then information dissemination with the ESE Teachers.

- **Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS)**

Debbie Tihen disseminated information on the FDLRS state priorities as plans are underway for activities in 2009-10. Debbie shared comments from the FDLRS Needs Assessments and added that these comments will be reflected upon during staff planning of parent training and teacher professional development for next year. The FDLRS Needs Assessments included results from both Collier and Lee Counties. Dr. Sartorio remarked that the parent comments on the Needs Assessment emphasize a need for information dissemination and understanding of high school diploma options and would like to see FND/PEERs and FDLRS focus parent training in this area.

Debbie stated that FDLRS plans to meet with Stan Wesser to put together an action plan for Differentiated Instruction professional development and will be contacting Dr. Sartorio to schedule a meeting to discuss implementation in Collier.

- **SW Florida Personnel Development Partnership & SERVS/FGCU**

Peg Sullivan reported that the Alliance has a meeting in May and will be working on Florida Differentiated Accountability Model (FDAM) Program. Florida's differentiated accountability model is a consolidation of federal and state accountability systems for the purpose of identifying the lowest performing schools in need of assistance and to provide targeted and/or school-wide support and interventions. In 2009-10, this model will be applied to all schools; Florida is hiring staff for each region to implement and monitor this program.

Peg reports that PDP at FGCU continues to focus on increasing the State's capacity to recruit, prepare and retain highly qualified personnel that provide instructional and related services to children with disabilities. The Partnership continues to operate COPE, a program for paraprofessionals completing a degree in special education. The PDP provides funds for all beginning ESE teachers to access hours of service through this program (in-classroom consultation and assistance). PDP continues to provide support for coursework leading toward an endorsement in Autism; PreK Disabilities; and in Severe/Profound Disabilities.

Peg reported that the Positive Beginnings grant supporting young children with challenging behaviors has been extended to December 2009.

- **Collier's Partners in Transition (PIT)**

Allman Todd reported that Lisa Friedman Chavez from Project 10: Transition Education Network, a new discretionary statewide transition project, came to Collier in March 2009. Project 10 will focus on: capacity building to implement secondary transition

services; interagency collaboration; transition legislation and policy; and student development and outcomes. These State Performance Plan (SPP) initiatives will help to provide training and technical assistance for personnel throughout the state working to improve the future success of students with disabilities. the primary vehicle for state initiatives. The last Collier PIT meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2009.

- **SEDNET Project**

Dr. Katrina Nedley reported that the Florida Department of Education is realigning SEDNET grants with new state priorities. Transition services will be a SEDNET priority.

Dr. Nedley stated that the Transition Conference was very informative outlining the new direction that DOE is taking with transition through Project 10.

Dr. Nedley indicated that Project 10 awards were given to Lely High School and Alternative Schools for their school-based enterprise proposals. Lisa Friedman Chavez along with Rick Casey, Consultant, recently visited Project 10 award winners. These consultants will be working with Project 10 awardees on the implementation of their proposals for school-based enterprise.

- **Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA)**

Rosa Martinez indicated that the 4th Annual Dia del Nino was a huge success and shared pictures of the day with meeting attendees. Rosa announced that the migrant centers will be closing at the end of May; however, Family Service Workers will be working thru mid-June. RCMA's Family Service Workers will be participating in a training working with pregnant mothers. Rosa stated that RCMA has obtained its child care license for Timber Ridge Community and will offer after-school and Early Head Start programs for the children in Immokalee. Additionally, RCMA will operate a summer program at the Immokalee Charter School at no cost to the parents. Before and after school care will continue to be provided at the RCMA Immokalee Charter will continue.

New Business

- **2009 LEA Profile**

Dr. Sartorio disseminated and reviewed the 2009 LEA Profile for Collier County. Information is being disseminating to principals during their principal's meetings this month. The profile contains a series of data indicators that describe measures of educational benefit, educational environment, prevalence, parent involvement and provides information about district performance as compared to state level targets in Florida's State Performance Plan. The data contained in this profile were obtained from data submitted electronically by the district in surveys 2 and 5 and through district and parent survey submissions. The LEA Profile may be found on the BEESS website at <http://www.fl DOE.org/ese/datapage.asp>.

- **IDEA Part B Entitlement** – The IDEA Part B Entitlement Project Application for 8.7 million is being prepared to be submitted by July 1. The IDEA Part B American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds of 5 million, was awarded to Collier County (total of 10 million over two years). ARRA funds will be used to save and create jobs, and to improve student achievement through school improvement and reform to help close the achievement gap. IDEA funds will support funding for: 100% of 170 ESE Assistants; 18 ESE Program

Specialists; 3 Home School Intervention Counselors; 2 Assistive Technology Specialists; district ESE staff (e.g., secretarial/data entry/bookkeeper, coordinators, assistant director); and a portion of school psychologists and FTE staff, with funds set-aside for parent services (\$50,000), travel reimbursement for itinerant staff, and the parentally placed private school proportionate share for students with disabilities. Of the Entitlement, approximately 96% is spent in salaries and benefits for services to students with disabilities. During the first year of ARRA funds, funding will support: 5 additional Inclusion Teachers; 12 Teachers on Special Assignment-Response to Intervention/Positive Behavior Supports (TSA-RTI/PBS) Teachers; .5 of the RtI/PBS Coordinator; a portion of Reading Coaches and Literacy Specialists; a portion of salaries for Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO) Teachers; and school-based ESE Secretaries. Funds will be set-aside for district-wide RtI training and other professional development, as well as supplemental instructional materials. Salaries and benefits continue to be a large portion of the ARRA award, as well as the proportionate share.

- **IDEA Part B Preschool** – Karen Stelmacki stated that this year’s IDEA, Part B Preschool Entitlement funds (\$253,002) will provide for salary/benefits for 3 Pre-K Assessment Team members (a Home School Intervention Counselor/Social Worker; Speech-Language Diagnostician; and an Educational Diagnostician/Staffing-Transition Specialist). IDEA ARRA funds (\$157,714 for year one and year two) will ensure that students with disabilities attending the district Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Program have an Interpreter of the Hearing Impaired; will fund two new positions - a TSA/Pre-K Teacher/Coach to provide support to Pre-K Inclusion Teachers and a bilingual ESE Secretary to the Pre-K Assessment Team; and provide training and oversight related to compliance issues (implementation of the child outcomes measurement system). A proportionate share for parentally placed private school students from both the Entitlement and ARRA funds will be set-aside.

OPEN

- Peg mentioned that Susan McNally did a great presentation on RtI and thanked the District for its participation in Promising Pathways; 350 persons attended.
- Barb Southwick reported that the Boundless Playground ground-breaking day is scheduled for May 26th.

Next Sharing The Commitment Meeting:

September 8, 2009

10 AM – 12 PM

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Administration Center

Room 4-167

Future Meeting Dates:

November 10, 2009

January 12, 2010

March 9, 2010

May 11, 2010