

SHARING THE COMMITMENT

An Exceptional Student Education Advisory Committee

MEETING MINUTES



DATE: Tuesday, January 8, 2008
TIME: 10 AM – 12 PM

ESE ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Victoria Sartorio, Karen Stelmacki, Shery Francis, Adella Spinella, Pamela Bruening, Dave Burgess, Bob Spano, Dr. Beth McBride, Jennifer Smith, Debbie Tihen, Myra Shapiro, Rosa Martinez

ESE ADVISORY MEMBERS ABSENT

Wilbur Hawke, Peg Sullivan, Tina Clawson, Dr. Katrina Nedley, Stan Weser, Dr. Linda Ray, Idel Altenburg

ESE ADVISORY GUESTS

Dr. Sheryl Alvies, Tricia Wilkinson, Beth Overholt, Barb Southwick, Allman Todd, Carolyn Gischel, Estella Lozano

Welcome and Introductions

Members and guests were welcomed and introductions were made.

- **Review and Approval of Agenda**
The agenda was approved by committee members as presented.
- **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
The November 13, 2007 meeting minutes were approved by committee members as presented with one correction. The date of the 3rd Annual **Day of the Child** is **April 12, 2008**.

Old Business

1. Sensitivity Awareness Training Presentation – Beth Overholt

Beth Overholt disseminated a training packet including a sample of Corkscrew Elementary School's December 6th schedule of activities, stations (5 minute stations) and materials to all members and guests. Pictures of this event were also shared. Beth commented, "We are on the way to creating sensitivity awareness in our schools; this was a great beginning." Evaluation comments from teachers, volunteers, and students will be considered by the task force. Beth highlighted the very insightful comments from the students. Approximately 200 students participated and 10 volunteers. The training team successfully created sensitivity awareness (student evaluation comments). The task force will provide Dr. Sartorio with the purchase information for the VHS video "Small Differences" that was seen by the students prior to the awareness activities. It was recommended Sharing The Commitment members, Dave Burgess and Pamela Bruening, indicated interest in having the Sensitivity Awareness Training at their schools. The contact for scheduling this training is Jennifer Smith, FDLRS Parent Services Specialist at (239) 337-8162 or JenniferHS@LeeSchools.Net

2. Collaborative Partners Updates

- **Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS)/Island Coast – Debbie Tihen**

Debbie Tihen reported that FDLRS Island Coast will soon be starting three (3) new online staff development (PDA) trainings for teachers. For more information, contact Sue Ham at 337-8282. Virginia Kennard, in collaboration with Bill Schulte and Sheri Wiseman, continues to offer assistive technology trainings/open labs at Poinciana Elementary School ATEN Lab. This training is open to parents. For more information, contact Bill Schulte at 377-0153 or SchultWi@collier.k12.fl.us. A major Child Find outreach effort is starting. FDLRS will be mailing information to all child care centers and primary care physicians. FDLRS has made contact with Dr. Friedman who is facilitating an opportunity to speak with physicians at North Collier Hospital. Karen Stelmacki suggested that Dr. Duncan may be able to also assist with facilitating this speaking engagement.

- **Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) – Carolyn Gischel for Dr. Linda Ray**

Carolyn Gischel stated that FGCU is actively recruiting certified teachers (general and special ed) who are interested in obtaining a Master's Degree in Special Education from the College of Education. The program focus is on high incidence disabilities in inclusive settings. There has been a tremendous growth in the undergraduate program (48) – higher than any previous year.

- **Collier's Partners in Transition (PIT) – Allman Todd**

Allman Todd stated that Collier's PIT has been meeting for approximately 1 ½ years and their focus is on identifying the barriers to post-school transition. PIT members include representatives from most adult programs within the community. Several focus groups are being established, both in Immokalee and in Naples. The next meeting date is January 15th at 11:30 a.m. with the business meeting from 12 – 2 p.m. in room 1-103 at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Administration Center. For more information, contact Allman Todd at 377-0153 or ToddAl@collier.k12.fl.us.

- **Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA) – Rosa Martinez**

Rosa Martinez reminded members to mark their calendar - April 12th is the Day of the Child in Immokalee. ESE, FDLRS, FND, and FIN are collaborative partners who support this very special day. Rosa stated that RCMA continues to work collaboratively with FDLRS Child Find to complete developmental screenings for children identified as having a potential delay or disability; and assists families with other needs including child care services, immigration process, and resource supports.

3. Parent Presentation Sub-Committee (Dr. Robert Naseef) – Jennifer Smith

Jennifer Smith reported that FDLRS has received a commitment from Dr. Naseef to visit our area the weekend of February 22-23. He will speak in Collier on Friday, February 22, 2008 from 5-8 p.m. at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Administration Center Board Room. His presentation will focus on *Understanding Your Child's Behavior and Building Links Together*. FDLRS will send information to Dr. Sartorio for a press release. For more information about Dr. Naseef, visit <http://www.specialfamilies.com/presentations.htm>

4. Golden Terrance Elementary (GTE) Parent-Educator Workshop – Pamela Bruening

Pamela Bruening reported that Golden Terrace Elementary has sponsored two Positive Behavior Support (PBS) parent workshops (presented in Spanish and English). Recently, a PreK Coffee Hour (8:30 – 9:30 a.m.) program, "Let's Talk", was conducted and was a great success! A quarter of our PreK parents attended! The program was presented in English, Spanish, and Creole. PreK teachers and the Speech-Language Pathologists modeled reading and language for the parents. Parents learned how to read with their children by extending vocabulary and language, even with simple picture books. They also received laminated cue cards in their home language with pictures and words to help them talk with their children while doing routine tasks at home, such as cooking, laundry, walking, and driving. This type of language extension and conversation was modeled for

them via the use of Big Books. Parents also received public library information and information on accessing Rosetta Stone at their homes for language learning. (Anyone that has a Collier County Public Library card may access Rosetta Stone online from their home or business.) Parents were also introduced to the ESE Parent Library at GTE. Pam requested an additional parent library for their intermediate building.

5. Naples Alliance For Children (NAFC) – Myra Shapiro

Myra Shapiro stated that NAFC has a new online search engine. Online updates can be done immediately, so please review your agency information online and let Myra know if there are changes that need to be made. NAFC is committed to working with Pre-K parents and early childhood providers. A workshop on early literacy is scheduled Feb 9 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Child Care of SW Florida. For more information, contact NAFC at info@napleschild.org or 649-5260. This early literacy resource, as well as the behavior toolbox, is also available to parents. NAFC is also in process of working on a gang program with the Sheriff's office (interactive video program) and is developing a toolbox for identification of early mental health issues.

6. SEDNET Information – Dr. Victoria Sartorio for Dr. Katrina Nedley

Dr. Sartorio shared information about a free conference, *Autism and Co-Existing Mental Health Disorders*, that is scheduled for Friday, May 9th, 2008 at FGCU. She also indicated that there is a financial planning presentation for families with “special” children scheduled for Tuesday, January 15, 2008 at Lee Memorial Hospital Auditorium in Fort Myers, FL.

New Business

Our presenter, Gary Gropper, a personal banker at Bank of America was unable to attend. This presentation will be rescheduled.

OPEN

- Dr. Sartorio shared, *Chicken Soup for the Soul, Children with Special Needs* was ordered for each of the parent libraries.
- Beth Overholt stated that she continues to read/review resource books in the parent library and offer book reviews for posting on Sharing The Commitment website.
- PEER parent, Adella Spinella, reported that she continues to receive parent calls and provides technical assistance and support as appropriate.
- Adella suggested that ESE consider ordering CHADD Educator's Manual on Attention-Deficit/ Hyperactivity Disorder (AD/HD) at www.chadd.org for all parent libraries.
- Dave Burgess reported that the Road Rally at Poinciana Elementary last week was a great success! 400 teachers participated. ESE Instructional Technology Specialists/Trainers, Sheri Wiseman and Bill Schulte, participated in this event.

Next Meeting – March 11, 2008

10 AM – 12 PM

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Administration Center

Room 4-167