

SHARING THE COMMITMENT

An Exceptional Student Education Advisory Committee

MEETING MINUTES



DATE: Tuesday, November 13, 2007
TIME: 10 AM – 12 PM

ESE ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT

Dave Burgess, Wilbur Hawke, Karen Stelmacki, Dr. Elizabeth McBride, Debbie Tihen, Jennifer Smith, Pam Bruening, Rosa Martinez (replaced Sylvia Delgado), Dr. Linda Ray

ESE ADVISORY MEMBERS ABSENT

Dr. Victoria Sartorio, Idel Altenburg, Sherry Francis, Bob Spano, Peg Sullivan, Dr. Katrina Nedley, Adella Spinella, Myra Shapiro

ESE ADVISORY GUESTS

Barb Southwick, Allman Todd, Joyce Austin, Sheri Wiseman, Bill Schulte, Stan Weser, Judi Evans, Christine Stolz, Estela Lozano, Ellie Ramirez

Welcome and Introductions

- **Review and Approval of Agenda**
The agenda was approved by committee members as presented.
- **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
The September 11, 2007 meeting minutes were approved by committee members as presented.

Old Business

Collaborative Partners Updates

- **Florida Network on Disabilities – Wilbur Hawke**
Wilbur announced that FND recently implemented its new Parent Training and Information grant and introduced Christine Stolz representing the FND state office. Wilbur provided an update on FND Projects: The Florida Parent Information Resource Center (PIRC); Parent Education Network (PEN). PTI and PIRC are merging with focus on parent resource support/parent involvement at Target Title I schools. Barbara Ramos is Collier's contact for this resource. Wilbur introduced Ellie Ramirez, the FND minority outreach person who is the resource for parents educating parents in Collier.

Wilbur stated that Golden Gate High (GGH) will be hosting the 2008 Southern Region collaborative conference in September 2008 and that he will be calling on Sharing The Commitment members to provide support.

Wilbur mentioned that the collaborative FND Parent Training CDs are being sent to school principals and stressed the need for schools to consider co-teach teams to provide training for parents. Attendee sign-in and evaluation sheets are requested after schools conduct the workshops. The first co-teach team has been established at Golden Terrace Elementary. Wilbur encouraged participants to visit <http://collierstc.com/> as a resource about Sharing The Commitment. Wilbur reported that the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has

recognized Collier's Sharing The Commitment, ESE Advisory, as a best practice targeting parent involvement. FND is offering this model statewide.

Mark your calendar: April 10, 2008 is the 3rd Annual Day of the Child to be held in Immokalee.

- **Parent Exceptional Educator Resources (PEER) Parent Workshops**

A parent workshop was recently completed in Spanish at Golden Terrace Elementary. Follow-up training and support will be provided. For more information about this school's activities, contact Pamela Bruening at 377-7000 or bruenipa@collier.k12.fl.us.

- **Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System – Debbie Tihen**

Debbie distributed a FDLRS Inservice descriptions for teachers and parents. This information will be shared electronically with FND for placement on collierstc.com website.

- **Dr. Robert Nasseef Presentation – Jennifer Smith**

FDLRS has received a commitment from Dr. Nasseff to visit our area the weekend of February 22-23. He will speak in each county to parents and professionals together. His topic, as a psychologist and father of a now grown son with autism, can be a combination of the presentations he offers: Building Links That Endure; The Father Factor: Understanding the Special Needs of Fathers; First Aid For Your Relationship: When You're Raising a Child With Special Needs; Stress Busters: When Your Child Has Special Needs; Understanding and Guiding Your Child's Behavior; Issues Facing Siblings of Children with Disabilities; Children with PDD, Their Families, and Daily Routines; and Living with Autism Spectrum Disorder: Professional and Personal Perspectives. Jennifer Smith recommended forming a subcommittee to work on this activity for Friday, Feb 22nd and volunteered to be the Chair. Other committee volunteers include: Barb Southwick, Stan Weser, and Karen Stelmacki.

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

Allie stated that a Project Connect training recently took place in Collier which focused on transition of youth ages 16 and above and postsecondary options. Transition focus groups will look at road blocks for students in Collier County and identify possible solutions. Workgroups include: Resource Directory, Corporate Partners, and Summary of Performance. If you would like more information about volunteering on a subcommittee or about participating in a PIT meeting, contact Allman Todd at 377-0153. The next meeting is November 19th from 12:30 – 3:00 p.m. (1-3 p.m. is the business meeting) at the Administration Center.

- **Florida Inclusion Network (FIN) – Stan Weser**

Stan stated that FIN is in the process of grant re-writing for submission to the DOE. Information about the upcoming parent conference will soon be posted on the FIN website at www.floridainclusion.com. Stan complemented Collier County's parent/advisory organization, the Assistive Technology website and technology services, and the district's performance data (free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment) as compared to state level targets in Florida's State Performance Plan. The number of students with disabilities ages 6-21 in regular class, 65%, exceeds the state.

Karen stated that numerous promising practices (FAPE in the LRE, Alternative Educational Programs, Sharing The Commitment) were noted by the Florida Department of Education Bureau of Exceptional Student Services during its February 12, 2007 on-site focused monitoring visit of the exceptional student education (ESE) programs. If you would like to review this report, please go to http://www.fldoe.org/ese/pdf/Collier_FINAL_Report.pdf.

- **Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) - Dr. Linda Ray**

Dr. Linda Ray reported that Carol Gischel has been actively recruiting in Collier County School District and the university has a teacher cohort interested in the Masters degree program. FGCU is working on developing focus groups to discuss this program's curriculum.

Sensitivity Awareness Task Force – Jennifer Smith, Chair

Jennifer stated that the committee has done a tremendous job. The 1st training is scheduled to take place at Corkscrew Elementary School on December 6th during Inclusive Schools Week. The training starts at 10 AM and is open to all Sharing The Commitment members to attend. Jennifer will send a task force summary and list of contents to FND for posting on the <http://collierstc.com/> website. The Task Force will continue to discuss how to disseminate this training information to schools and provide a recommendation to Dr. Sartorio for consideration. If you are interested in attending the Corkscrew Elementary School's Sensitivity Training on December 6th, please contact Barb Southwick.

New Business

- **Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment (CIA) – William Schulte & Sheri Wiseman**

Bill reported that Florida recently revised the Sunshine State Standards for all students and then further broke it down to access points – a link to benchmarks – for students with significant cognitive impairments. A power point presentation handout was distributed. Highlights included:

- **Sunshine State Standards Access Points**

Access points reflect the core intent of the Sunshine State Standards but with less complexity. They are designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities who meet the criteria for alternate assessment. They ensure access, through meaningful instruction and engagement, to academic skills and concepts that apply to same age peers. The academic areas assessed include reading, mathematics, writing and science. If you would like to know more about the access points, you can find them at www.flstandards.org.

- **Assistive Technology (AT) Services and ATEN Lab**

Technology is receiving the attention of families and professionals due to its potential for enhancing the lives of students with disabilities. The diversity of available technology is ever changing. When an assistive technology evaluation is requested we are really talking about what accommodations can be provided in the classroom for the student to access the general education curriculum. Examples of low-tech, mid-tech, and high-tech devices were demonstrated and on exhibit at the ATEN Lab. A device hierarchy was reviewed. Specialized trainings are offered by the AT Specialists both on site at schools and at the ATEN Lab. Mr. Burgess emphasized that all students benefit from the educational environment being engineered with assistive technology supports. If you would like to know more information, you can visit www.collier.k12.fl.us/at/ or contact Sheri or Bill at 377-0153.

- **Florida Alternate Assessment**

A new standards-based statewide assessment, the Florida Alternate Assessment, has been designed specifically for students with significant cognitive disabilities. The Florida Alternate Assessment, grades 3-10, is a functional based assessment that measures student achievement on the Sunshine State Standards through access points. The purpose of this assessment is to adhere to the federal laws that hold schools accountable for student achievement, while providing parents and teachers with information about how students are progressing from grade to grade. The Florida Alternate Assessment will be administered to all students taking an alternate assessment in March 2008. The IEP Team determines when a child with

a disability meets the requirements for participation in alternate assessment.
Students may be partly on FCAT and partly on Florida Alternate Assessment. .

- **State Performance Plan and Compliance Self-Assessment**

Each state is required to develop a Part B State Performance Plan (SPP) that addresses 20 indicators identified by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) as representative of:

- Monitoring Priority: FAPE in the LRE
Indicator 1-8 (Indicator 8: Parent Involvement)
- Monitoring Priority: Disproportionality
Indicator 9-10
- Monitoring Priority: Effective General Supervision Part B
Indicator 11 - 20

If you would like to know more about the SPP, you can visit <http://www.fldoe.org>.

The key data indicators selected for the state's focused monitoring for the 2007-08 school year are based on the monitoring priority areas identified in IDEA 2004 and the SPP indicators which the state must address in their Annual Performance Plan (APR). The results of district self-assessments conducted during 2007-08 will be used to inform future monitoring activities, including the selection of districts for on-site monitoring, and in the LEA determinations that result in districts being identified as "meets requirements," "needs assistance," "needs intervention," or "needs substantial intervention." District- and/or school-level personnel will undertake the review of critical components of the ESE programs, by the completion of applicable protocols to determine the level of compliance with federal and state laws, rules, and regulations regarding procedures related to exceptional student education. For 2007-08, SPP indicators being targeted for self-assessment include: Dropout Rate; Participation and Performance on Statewide Assessment; LRE ages 6-21; and PreK LRE (ages 3-5). Selected schools include: Golden Gate Elementary, Everglades City School, Vineyards Elementary School, Palmetto Ridge High, Tommie Barfield Elementary, and Marco Island Charter Middle.

OPEN

- Jennifer Smith announced that she will be participating on a panel at a conference hosted by CARD, SEDNET, and PDP on May 9th - Autism with Co-existing Mental Health Disorders.
- Pam Bruening announced that the parent library at Golden Terrace Elementary School has been set up and that they have developed a format for tracking book checkouts and book reviews.
- Wilbur Hawke emphasized the need for schools to track the utilization of parent and teacher resources, e.g., Transition Kits, FCAT Kits, etc.
- Wilbur indicated a need for a letter of support (by November 19th) from Dr. Sartorio for Collier's Partners in Transition supporting its two partners, Bank of America and the Publix Corporation.
- Joyce Austin requested parent involvement assistance on behalf of Manatee Middle School for parents facing the challenge of poverty and the discipline issues that this presents for our students with disabilities. Representatives from the FND Projects, The Florida Parent Information Resource Center (PIRC) and Parent Education Network (PEN) project offered their assistance and support.

Next Meeting – January 8, 2008

10 AM – 12 PM

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Administration Center

Room 4-167