

Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP)

May 11, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: : Brandy Funk, Wendy Fitch, Amanda Pena, Brian Darcy, Ruth Garfield, Robin Greenfield, Jill Mathews, Stephanie Hoffman, Ted Oparnico, Nanna Hanchett, Angela Lindig

SEAP Welcome : Robin Greenfield, SEAP Vice Chair

- Robin welcomed the group and reported that Keith Allred, SEAP Chair is out of town

Dispute Resolution Training : Robin Greenfield, Vice Chair; Brandy Funk, Secretary and Jill Mathews, SDE Family and Community Engagement

- An update was given regarding the dispute resolution law training that was presented by Art Cernosia, an attorney from Vermont. Federal policy/legislative issues were summarized in the areas of Results Driven Accountability, the IDEA Full Funding Act, a future change in the term “No Child Left Behind” as well as updates on court cases regarding eligibility, IEP issues, related services/assistive technology, and issues around least restrictive environment (LRE).

SSIP and SPP/ARP Update: Charlie Silva, SDE Special Education Director

- Dr. Silva reported that the state’s Annual Performance Report (APR) was submitted to the OSEP on February 1, 2015. The State Department has received feedback and resubmitted correction to the report. They expect to receive addition feedback in June 2015.
- Phase one of the State Systematic Improvement Plan (SSIP) has been submitted to OSEP. In this first phase of the multi-year plan the Department analyzed data and looked for problem trends, current infrastructure and strategies for change. Data has shown that a reading foundation is critical and aligned with dropout and graduation rates. The majority of states are focusing on the area of literacy to demonstrate improvement. Idaho will focus raising rates of literacy at the 4th grade level.

Strands of Action: Charlie Silva, SDE Special Education Director

- With regards to the SSIP, Dr. Silva discussed several action items that were listed as agenda items for the SDE by the previous administration. After further discussion the SDE would like to scale back these items and leverage existing resources like coaches and collaboration and try and weave those things into other areas. She asked SEAP to make suggestions as to which strands to delete from their current agenda. The goal is to refine the current plan and implement strategies that can be successful.



Parent Survey: Alisa Fewkes

- The 2014 survey saw a 1% drop in participation but a 9% increase in positive feedback. The committee would like to review the data from the 2015 survey to look at return rate and feedback. If the rate remains low then the committee will consider recommending a pilot be conducted involving more face to face interaction with parents (e.g., IEP meeting, parent/teacher conference). Additional suggestions included uploading the survey on an iPad instead of using a hard copy format.

Approval of March/November Meeting Minutes: Robin Greenfield, SEAP Vice-Chair

- The March minutes were reviewed by the committee. Amada Pena made a motion to approve the minutes and Ruth Garfield seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the committee.
- The November minutes were reviewed by the committee. Brandy Funk made a motion to approve the minutes and Brian Darcy seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the committee.

Discussion of SEAP By-Laws: Robin Greenfield, SEAP Vice-Chair

- Dr. Greenfield reviewed the SEAP by-laws section that indicated that if a member has completed their three year term then they need to re-apply to the committee for another three year term. SEAP members are able to participate on the panel for two consecutive terms.

SEAP Executive Committee Elections : Robin Greenfield, SEAP Vice-Chair

- Brian Darcy nominated Brandy Funk as SEAP Vice. Stephanie Hoffman seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously voted to elect Ms. Funk as SEAP Vice-Chair.
- Stephanie Hoffman nominated Angela Lindig to serve as SEAP secretary. Brandy Funk seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously voted to elect Angela Lindig as SEAP Secretary for the coming year.

Member Updates: SEAP Members

- Robin Greenfield announced the annual summer institute sponsored by the Center on Disabilities and Human Development at the University of Idaho and the State Department of Education. This year Phil Schweigert will present "Understanding and Nurturing the Communicative Competencies in Learners with Significant Disabilities." The training will be presented on June 15-16 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Boise.
- Jill Mathews is a member of the DD Council and would like to see the SDE get involved in the Partners in Policymaking program to sponsor trainings on special education.



- Amanda Pena described a parenting program and child/adolescent needs assessment used the Department of Health and Welfare. They are trying to partner with schools to implement the various tools.
- Angela Lindig reported that IPUL is in year one of their 5 year Parent Training grant. They also have been awarded a three year Family Health Information Center grant
- Brian Darcy reported that there are currently 1865 students receiving services from IESDB either on-site in Gooding or in regions throughout the state. They are struggling with finding enough consultants/teachers to meet the current needs. The annual training for paraprofessionals working with students with visual impairments will be held in Gooding in June. IESDB is also holding an interpreter symposium on June 13-14 and a summer camp for children who are blind at the end of June. The Sawtooth Camp for children who are deaf or hard of hearing will be held the second week of July. School ends on May 28th and four students will graduate. They are expecting 95 students to receive instruction on the Gooding campus next year.
- Ted Oparnico reported that he continues to do work at the Cottonwood/Orofino facility. The groups will come together on June 1-4 of this year for an annual conference.
- Ruth Garfield reported that Denise Wetzel is the new director for Families Together and Ruth will do more outreach. They have done a variety of positive parenting workshops and supported parents in IEP meetings. On June 7 the Ability Experience, which is the annual bike ride from Seattle to Washington DC to raise money and awareness of people with disabilities.
- Wendy Fitch reported that the Head Start in Weiser has closed and that Payette now serves those children.

Future Meetings:

Future meeting dates were set for –

*September 14

*November 9

*February 22

*May 2

All meeting will be held at the State Department of Education.

