

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2013 – 8:30 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.

Public Meeting at:

AIRPORT PLAZA HOTEL
1981 TERMINAL WAY
RENO, NEVADA

A. INTRODUCTION. The regular meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) was called to order at 8:51 a.m. Roll call was taken, and quorum was determined:

Present: Sheila Allred, Pam Alvey, Laura Bruni, Mary Bryant, Diana Cannon, Sue Chambers, David Coffey, MaryAnn Demchak, Ann Drendel-Haas, Shirley Gaw, Ken Higbee, Mary Ellen Horan, Will Jensen, Susan Lacey, Caroline Longre, Dorothy Pomin, Ellen Richardson Adams, Tammy Rieken, Carrisa Tashiro, Karen Taycher, and Rita Varney

Absent: Lisa Erquiaga, Joseph Holguin, Brian Patchett, Tom Pierce, and Robin Renshaw

Staff: Marva Cleven, Marcia Calloway, and Kim Boles

Public: None

B. SPECIFIC ITEMS FROM VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

No items were introduced at this time, and there were no public comments

C. OVERVIEW OF ROLE OF SEAC AND STRUCTURE OF MEETINGS

Marva Cleven took the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) through the powerpoint presentation that included the roles and responsibilities of the members of the committee, she also provided them a matching handout in their meeting packet.

D. ELECTION OF OFFICERS*

Karen Taycher nominated MaryAnn Demchak for the position of Chair. MaryAnn accepted the nomination.

Motion Karen Taycher moved to appoint MaryAnn Demchak to the position of Chair. Dorothy Pomin seconded the motion. The vote was called and the motion carried without objection.

Karen Taycher nominated Ellen Richardson Adams for the position of Vice-Chair. Ellen Richardson Adams accepted the nomination.

Motion Karen Taycher moved to appoint Ellen Richardson Adams to the position of Vice-Chair. Mary Bryant seconded the motion. The vote was called and the motion carried without objection.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES*

The minutes of the March 19, 2013 meeting were reviewed and discussed. There was a typo on page 2, section D, line 6, where it says “no know”, it should be “no known”. There were no other changes or corrections offered at this time.

Motion: David Coffey moved to approve the minutes. Sheila Allred seconded the motion. The vote was called and the motion carried without objection. Mary Bryant abstained.

The minutes of the May 21, 2013 meeting were reviewed and discussed. There were no other changes or corrections offered at this time.

Motion: Mary Bryant moved to approve the minutes. David Coffey seconded the motion. The vote was called and the motion carried without objection. MaryAnn Demchak and Ellen Richardson Adams abstained.

F. STATE PERFORMANCE PLAN (SPP)/ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT (APR)*

Marva Cleven directed the committee to the two documents in the packet titled “Proposed FFY 2013-FFY 2018 Part B SPP/APR Crosswalk” and “What would your Gantt Chart for Implementing the Revised SPP/APR, with the Phase I of the SSIP included, look like?” She shared that the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) is now in the process of revising the SPP and the APR for the upcoming years. This reporting cycle is for February 2014 because we are always a year behind. We will be reporting 2012-2013 data in 2014. For this meeting she would like the committee to have a general overview and focus of the indicators that they will be working with over the next 6 years. Many of the indicators have stayed the same, however, there is a significant change on Indicator 15 on Timely Correction of Noncompliance. The districts were monitored and had a year to make corrections. That indicator has been removed, now it will be considered effective monitoring, this committee will be working on that process of what that looks like over the course of this year. Monitoring will still take place it will just look different then it has in the past.

The Gantt chart gives a general overview of the timeline of what needs to be worked on in the first phase. The special education directors will also be working on this process as well. This is really important that the SEAC provided information to develop this plan for the State. Marva will bring information to this committee as it has become available.

G. DUE PROCESS, COMPLAINT AND MEDIATION REPORT*

Marva informed the committee that this information is all part of dispute resolution. On the handout you can see how many requests were received for due process, complaints, and mediation, how many due process went to hearings, and how many complaints that were investigated. Karen Taycher asked for a trend report of the topics of the due process hearings, and if they are in favor of the school district or the family. Mary Ellen Horan asked if the trend report could also tell what districts are involved. Marva went on to explain that complaints requests are different than the due process requests. Complaints are filed, an impartial investigation is conducted, and a report is made, all reports are posted on the NDE website. You can see the findings and corrective actions if applicable. All districts have 365 days to complete their corrective actions.

H. SEAC WEBSITE*

Marva Cleven asked if the committee members would like their email addresses listed on the NDE website, the consensus of the group was “no”. Karen Taycher asked that we add the national SEAC link to the NDE SEAC homepage as well as the powerpoint of the overview of roles and responsibilities of the members. Karen also shared that in other states the public brings problems to the committee for help with advising the department of education. This committee doesn’t have a lot of input from the public, she also shared that the national website has links to different states, that the committee could review for ideas. Karen also suggested that we designate who is chair and vice chair on the membership list on the website.

I. TRANSITION CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

Marva asked for feedback from committee members that attended the conference. Rita Varney found the conference very informative, very impressed with the speakers, she mentioned that the national speaker was very impressive. She did notice that there wasn’t a lot of time to sit down and chat, share information with someone she might have met. She would have liked the individual time. She said it was a super long day and night, would have liked another day. Very happy can’t wait for next year. Karen Taycher liked to see all the parents there, PEP is going to have a brown bag lunch to keep the parents motivated. They are currently trying to reenergize the parents. Shirley Gaw mentioned that it gave her a lot of hope for the future. Diana Cannon added that she found a connection for her grandson at the conference for information. It was a

magnificent conference for her, so much information but not long enough, loved the business cards. Rita wanted to add that the information that you gather from these speakers is invaluable. Will Jensen thought the conference was very good, a lot of diversity with parents, teachers, professionals. He thinks Mark did an outstanding job. Marva thanked the committee for the feedback.

K. BULLYING UPDATE - NEW POSITION

Marcia has happy news. SB164 was a bill that was passed this last session. The Department needs to address bullying in the schools. We have gained a position at the department. Before the DOE had to recommend training to the districts. Now the DOE has to provide training as well as suicide prevention and response. This new position will assist with this work, it's an added duty that has not been in our office. The position is now posted on the website in NEATS. Position should be filled within a month. Once the position is in place, the DOE will reach out to the districts with information. Karen Taycher wanted to point out that this focus on suicide prevention was a major goal of Nevada's children healthcare consortium. This is a good example on how state committees can influence each other. Marcia shared, that anyone that is interested can go to the NDE website for up to date information. A student can get this information and find resources within each school district. Two years from now we hope that this position is a permanent position, hopefully split with the Department of Human Resources.

Marcia also shared that the NDE has been awarded a 5 year grant, that equals over 10 million dollars. The first year is a training year, we will partner with mental health services administration. The grant has the following goals. Increase the number of children and youth who have access to behavioral health services in the pilot regions (Washoe, Lyon, and Nye County); decrease the number of students who abuse substances; increase supports for early childhood development; improve school climate; and reduce the number of students who are exposed to violence. Partnering with the Department of Health and Human services. Developing training for administrators. Ultimate goal is to develop what we can scale up for communities and school districts.

I. AB288 UPDATE*

Marcia asked the committee to go to the handout on page 13. This document will show how the bill came out of Legislation. Please take a moment to look at AB288 so we can discuss as a group. The HSPE has gone away and has been replaced with EOC (end of course assessments) They are hoping to pilot them with grades 9 and 10. Right now they are making determinations what these EOC assessments will be. The first two will be ELA and Math, however, that has not been finalized. Ken Higbee says that his understanding is that this years freshman class will have the option to use the EOC testing. Eventually the HSPE will be out. Marcia added that the intent is to transition so the kids do not get caught in the middle and are unable to graduate. It is for each course

and semester based. So there will be many exit routes. Exciting to see the CTE courses. Susan Lacey asked if a district can choose to keep the HSPE? Marcia replied that this bill eliminated the HSPE. Ellen Richardson Adams asked if there are any pros and cons with the new requirement for students in special education. Marci replied that there are conversations happening, there is no representation currently. Rita's question is this EOC assessment different than the end of semester test, Marcia replied that they should be the same. Karen asked if this means the option to get an adjusted diploma is eliminated. No it is has not been eliminated. She wants to know what the current official thought is on that, she is also very concerned that this conversation is happening without a representative from special education attending. It is this committees responsibility to make sure that there is representation on these committees? Tammy is asking in regard to children with disabilities, if they pass the test will they get the regular diploma? Marva replied that the IEP team dictates what type of diploma the student is getting.

Motion: Karen Taycher motioned that our Chair, MaryAnn Demchak write a letter to the Superintendent asking that any committees that are involved in education reform in Nevada include a special education representative on all of those committees. Dorothy Pomin seconded the motion. The vote was called and the motion carried without objection.

L. 2013 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE*

Marcia directed the group to the handout. She indicated that you could find the different bills on the table of contents and information about each bill.

M. ISSUES IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

Items Introduced by Committee Members:

Representative from this committee to participate in the ESEA Waiver Policy Discussion to be held on November 19, 2013, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm for a discussion of the waiver renewal. Carissa Tashiro volunteered to be the representative for this discussion.

Karen Taycher shared that she had a dear friend pass away last month, she gave Karen all of her memorabilia, Karen found that her friend was a part of the SEAC committee back in the late 70s. She also found that she had filed one of the first complaints, she also worked on ESY in Nevada. I just wanted to honor her for all of her hard work. Her name was Marjorie Turner.

Items Introduced by Visitors / Public Comments:

None

N. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS*

Academic Plans & IEPs (linkages/crossover)
AB288
Trend reports on Due Process
Special Education Representation on State Committees
Mediation Manual
SPP/APR
Superintendent Erquiaga's Views on Special Education
Waiver Renewal Update

O. ADJOURNMENT*

Motion: Susan Lacey moved to adjourn the meeting. Mary Bryant seconded the motion. The vote was called and the motion carried without objection.

The next regular SEAC meeting will be held on January 14, 2014.