

WSEAC Meeting Minutes  
March 11, 2009

In Attendance : Eve Bisard, Dorrie Carter, Carla Jaggi, Cindy Roberts, Mary Townsend, Richard D'Agostino, Susan Rooney, Christopher Friel, Susan Fay, Ed Racca, Patrick Maloney, Sharon Terzian, Derek Thayer, Melanie Cluley.

Meeting began at 7:05pm with introductions.

Acceptance of last meeting minutes :

- Committee approved acceptance of February 11, 2009 meeting minutes.

Old Business:

- Eve reported that Jessica spoke with Mrs. Keenan at Drumrock Early Childhood Learning Center. Drumrock is not doing a Kids Day this year and they do not use the building after 6:00pm because there are no custodians on duty after 6:00pm. Dr. D'Agostino said if needed, we could make arrangements for a custodian if we scheduled an event to take place after 6:00pm. Drumrock will be having an open house in the fall and Eve reported that Jessica will follow up to see if we can possibly hold our "meet and greet" for new parents at Drumrock on the same night as their open house in the fall.

New Business:

- Eve asked two questions regarding parent releases for evaluations/reports that are reviewed at an IEP meeting: 1) why can't parents sign one release to receive copies of their child's reports/evaluations/etc. from IEP team that is good for a designated period of time (example: 1 year, maybe sign at each annual IEP) instead of needing to sign multiple releases throughout the year; 2) Once a parent signs a release at an IEP meeting to receive copies of reports/evals that were presented/reviewed at this same IEP meeting, why can't the IEP team members copy those same reports and provide copies to the parent at that time, instead of then sending the reports/documents to administration only to have postage spent on mailing them to the parent, when the parent could have easily received a copy at the meeting that the report was presented. Dr. D'Agostino and Mrs. Rooney explained that there are procedures to follow and there is a need for a paper trail to be established. Eve stated she understood, and seemed that procedure is being followed, and paper trail established, if release is signed right at the meeting and just a waste of funds to then to turn around and spend postage when the documents are already present and have been reviewed, could easily just be copied and handed over to the parent once the release was signed and postage saved.
- Eve informed committee that the state would be sending out the parent surveys during the month of March and encouraged parents to please complete those.

Director of Special Education Report:

- Dr. D'Agostino discussed with committee members the termination of an Assistant Special Education Director position (Mr. Mattis) and how the district is trying to plan out restructuring of the Special Services Department to cover the loss of this position. Dr. D'Agostino also reviewed the development of another program at Drumrock and indicated the Virtual High School Credit Retrieval program was scheduled to run at two high schools – Vets and Tollgate. Indicated that the self-contained program currently at Holliman will be moved to Frances and the Intermediate class currently at Frances will be moved to Holliman. Also reviewed districts efforts to investigate ways to bring back to the district students currently attending Sargent and Groden Center programs. Cindy inquired regarding Differentiated Instruction (DI) and the disparity of

this at the Middle and High School levels. Dr. D'Agostino and Mrs. Rooney said all of our teachers should be providing DI and they are working to improve this throughout the district.

- Dr. D'Agostino reviewed the Future's Health Core Proposal. Warwick received grant approval to have Future's Health Core come to the district and assess our related service providers, looking at such things like entry and exit criteria for students receiving related services (OT, PT, Speech). District is looking to determine if our providers are providing "appropriate amount" of services to students with particular disabilities compared to other states and cities. This assessment will be completed this school year and a report is expected by the end of the school year. The district will then take these findings to assist them with scheduling related services for students for the upcoming school year.
- Dr. D'Agostino reviewed Response to Intervention (RTI) for Mr. Maloney. Indicated there will be an information sharing meeting with six school teams on March 30 to develop one common RTI template to use within the district. Discussed the RTI module and the training that principals will receive.

#### State Report:

- Sharon informed the committee that DHS is recruiting individuals to be on a task force for the new Global Medicaid Waiver. This task force will assist with forming policies that will help determine how the money is distributed among the various groups eligible for the Global Medicaid Waiver. Interested individuals can contact Sharon Kernan at DHS.

#### School Committee Report:

- Mr. Friel discussed the uncertainty of the district's financial forecast for next year and how the Governor's proposal might affect the amount of State aid the district receives. Mr. Friel also shared that the School Committee members were hearing from a lot of individuals in support of Mr. Bob Mattis, Assistant Special Education Director.
- Eve inquired about the status of the Potowomut school building and possibilities for leasing it. Mr. Friel stated that PATH is still interested in the building and that if the Governor's proposal passes, \$4.4 million is being allocated for charter schools and mayoral academies in the state, which would help with PATH securing the building and would require the district to turn over the building to the city. Eve inquired about the proposal that the Trudeau Center submitted several months ago to lease the building for 5 years. Both Mr. Friel and Mr. Maloney were unaware of this proposal. Eve had indicated she had spoken with the Trudeau Center's Executive Director, Mary Madden and Mrs. Madden indicated that Trudeau had actually submitted their proposal twice and had not received a response from the district. Eve asked why a proposal that would result in the district receiving money for the use of the empty building would not be considered but the Charter school proposal, where the district will most likely be paying tuitions, transportation costs, etc. is being considered. Mr. Friel stated he would look into it. Mr. Friel indicated that the School of the Deaf's 14 month lease at Rhodes Elementary will begin July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Meeting adjourned 8:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Eve Bisard  
WSEAC Co-Chair