

Warwick Special Education Advisory Committee
June 11, 2008

Attendance: Eve Bisard, Jessica Schad, Sharon Terzian, Dorrie Carter, Derek Thayer, Cindy Roberts, Dr. D'Agostino, Susan Fay, Kara Theriault, and Jennifer DiTusa

Meeting was called to order at 7:10pm by Eve Bisard. Eve made a motion to accept the last meeting minutes. Sharon Terzian seconded the motion.

Old Business: IEP satisfaction survey – Dr. D'Agostino suggested that the WSEAC host a presentation for parents on the New IEP. He will have one of the Assistant Directors and Sharon Terzian do the presentation. Group agreed to hold the presentation at the end of September. The IEP Satisfaction survey will be put off until the fall. This will enable us to get feedback from parents on the new IEP. For the new IEP presentation, Jessica and Eve will confirm a date with Dr. D'Agostino and draft up a flyer to send out when school starts.

New Business: Committee agreed to have the first meeting of the 2008 – 2009 school year on September 10, 2008. Jessica will work on the 2007 – 2008 WSEAC annual report and we will submit a draft to WSEAC committee members via email in August for their input and feedback. A final copy will be submitted to Dr. D'Agostino at the September meeting so he will be able to submit it to the School Committee for their October meeting. Committee discussed distribution of the WSEAC brochure to all Special Education parents at their IEP meetings. Dr. D'Agostino indicated that copies will be provided to all Guidance Departments at the Elementary level and all Department Heads at the Secondary level and the Early Childhood Learning Center. He also stated that the brochure could be sent home at the beginning of the school year in packets that the schools send home to each student at the beginning of each new school year.

Director of Special Education Report – Dr. D'Agostino indicated that the budget has been approved. He also reported that the Early Childhood Learning Center is all set to open for the 2008-2009 school year and that the full day K program has been approved and is ready to go. It will contain 12 typically developing students and 8 students identified as being at risk. Dr. D'Agostino also let the Committee know that VOWS and Child Outreach are also moving to the Early Childhood Learning Center.

Another new program that he reported upon was the new room for children with Autism at Oakland Beach which would service grades 2 – 6, as well as the addition to the Alternative Learning Program at Vets which would service children with anxiety and behavioral issues.

Dr. D'Agostino let the Committee know that the caps were off as of July 1st – but that Warwick would be maintaining it's current levels. This would give Warwick more flexibility to add an additional student to a classroom instead of changing placement especially in the case of splitting up a family into different schools. He also indicated that they are in the process of re-vamping procedures around the Function Behavioral Analysis (FBA) so as to give better reporting of whether or not the interventions have

worked. When Dr. D'Agostino was posed a question about ESY – he indicated that they were working on transition issues over the summer – trying to put together a more effective program especially for the secondary students which would focus more on work/study programs, job shadowing and life skills. Warwick would also be offering drop in resources over the summer for two hours – twice a week.

State Update: New IEP will be implemented for the 2008 – 2009 school year. Also, Sharon reported upon the Secondary Inclusion Program that she attended. She indicated that the facilitator compiled a nice program which gave helpful tips. Sharon will post the file on the website for the Committee to utilize. Sharon then let the Committee know that Graduation by Proficiency looks like it is going through even though she and others have been testifying to the Regents to get them to re-consider their position.

School Committee: No representatives from the School Committee were in attendance.

Membership: No new memberships.

Next meeting date: September 10, 2008 at 7:00pm.

Public Comment – Discussions about the Medicaid Global Waiver. A handout was given to the Committee members which highlights the current status of the program as well as the proposed changes. Sharon indicated that these proposed changes still need to be approved by CMS. Eve Bisard then offered the minutes from the Special House Commission to Study the Education of Children with Autism in the State of Rhode Island to the members of the Committee.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kara Theriault

Have a great summer!