

Special Education Council

February 16, 2006
3:30 – 5 p.m.
PFT Office



MINUTES

Attendees: Adams, Gail; Black, Melanie; Finkbeiner, Lynneah; Kasner, Dawn; Kisselburgh, Christine; Kurtz, Theresa; Murphy, JoAnn; Murray, Geralyn; Oxford, Kathy; Raczka, Don; Senhen, Mandy; Sirb, Linda; Skelly, Kevin; Smith-Rogers, Wendy; Thompson, Dave

- Kevin announced that LSS has allocated \$80,000 in funds that can be used to support the curriculum areas identified in the Special Education Strategic Plan. The group recommended a focus on Writing and Reading Intervention K-12.
- On Friday, March 3, representatives from all district learning councils will meet to design a format for staff development. The Special Ed Council will also have a representative to provide input on staff development for special education. Gail Adams will be our representative and Christine Kisselburgh will be the alternate.
- The UBC membership has been finalized. Kevin will send the email announcing teacher members to the Special Ed Council. The administrative representatives will be Earl Scull, Theresa Kurtz and JoAnn Murphy.
- Our full day planning session is scheduled for March 28, 2006. Lynneah and Theresa reviewed the proposed agenda which centered around defining our work for the future.
- Five members of the Special Ed Council will join principals, program specialists and special education administrators at the SANDCASE/Legal Alliance presentation of Legal Challenges and Issues by Art Cernosia on March 21, 2006. Art is one of the foremost attorneys at the national level in the field of special education. He will review the changes in IDEIA.
- At the next Special Ed Council meeting (March 16) the administrative team will provide an overview of current status of strategic planning, staffing, etc. – 1 ½ hours will be allotted for this overview.
- During this session, we broke up into two groups to focus on staff development and curriculum.

The staff development group identified four key areas to be addressed:

1. Logistics – need to have access to special education staff; staff development days?
2. Curriculum – teachers need in depth training in the research-based programs selected by the District
3. Legal – need training on federal and state law, procedures, and legal issues
4. Instructional Assistants – need training in curriculum strategies, teachers need training on managing and training assistants

Work to do (Staff Development):

- The logistics for staff development needs to be defined. At the March 28 meeting, Kevin asked the council to develop a specific plan regarding staff development to include:
 - When will staff development be offered? Release days, staff development days, job- alike meetings, TLC, summer?
 - Prioritize the trainings – layout a plan
 - Define budget needed to implement the staff development plan

The curriculum group recommended that the District select a research-based reading and writing curriculum K-12. They considered the following as a recommendation:

- Reading – “Read Naturally” designed for fluency and reading comp.
“Rewards”
“Read Well K-12”
- Writing – Step up to writing – teaching the structures of writing K-12

At the secondary level we also discussed the need to focus on CAHSEE curriculum support and teacher preparation.

Work to do (Curriculum):

- Get specific number and costs for rec. programs
- Identify the test criteria to be used in PUSD for determining the research-based curriculum to be used
- Review the curriculum adoption process – set timelines for implementation

JoAnn asked about our communication to staff over the last few months. GERALYN MURRAY is leading the effort for the Special Ed Council website. The minutes of our Special Ed Council will be sent to all teachers.

DRAFT
JAM/dt
2/27/06