

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL EDUCATION AD HOC COMMITTEE**

May 31, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. with the following Board members and support staff present: Shirley Brandman (chair), Steve Abrams, Suzann King, and Glenda Rose (recorder).

Staff present: Carey Wright, Gwen Mason, Vickie Strange-Moscoso, and Mary Lee Phelps.

Others present: Margaret McLaughlin and Rosemary Dove (co-chairs, SECIT).

**Action Items**

The minutes for the April 23, 2007, meeting were approved by consensus.

The committee approved a recommendation to the Board of Education to extend the Board advisory committee, Special Education Continuous Improvement Team, for two years.

Mr. Abrams declined to vote on making the Special Education Ad Hoc Committee a standing committee of the Board. He cited the upcoming Board retreat where this topic could be discussed.

Mr. Abrams left the meeting at this point.

An informal discussion followed on the remaining agenda items:

**Dialogue with the Special Education Continuous Improvement Team (SECIT) Advisory Committee**

Ms. McLaughlin and Ms. Dove briefed the committee on the work of the past year. The SECIT committee is in the process of preparing its report, which will include several recommendations.

Ms. McLaughlin noted the change in the delivery of special education over the past six years; however, there is more work to do. The SECIT wants to make sure that children with disabilities are visible in the systemwide improvement efforts. The SECIT will followup on Special Education at a Glance and the principals= planning guide .

Ms. Dove reviewed the work of the SECIT over its past seven meetings. There has been a presentation by Dr. Perich on Baldrige strategies, which ties in with the special education planning guide for principals.

Ms. McLaughlin stated that the SECIT=s recommendations will suggest use of the guide and mandatory training that will be embedded in the work of principals.

Everyone agreed that the SECIT worked on broad and long-term goals for the system. The SECIT needs a clear charge, since it offers a broad perspective on special education with a core group of parents and staff.

The committee agreed that after the SECIT is extended, its charge and structure should be reviewed to make the SECIT more useful to the committee and Board. Furthermore, there should be more communication between the SECIT and Ad Hoc Committee to work more closely with the Board. The SECIT could focus on a broad vision, inclusion, instruction outcomes, universal designed curriculum, new charge to the committee, size and composition of the committee. Also, the SECIT could analyze feedback from principals on the use of the special education guide and make revisions, if needed.

The committee mentioned universal design curriculum and the concept of schools modifying the curriculum for a full continuum in the school. A charge could be formulated around this concept. Focus on a broad vision, inclusion, instruction outcomes, universal designed curriculum, new charge to the committee, size and composition of the committee

There was discussion on the size of the SECIT and the Board=s expectations. Staff will supply the list of members on the SECIT, and inform Board staff of meeting dates of the SECIT in order for them to attend the meetings.

The committee was anxious to get this year=s report with recommendations and next steps, possibility three areas for investigation.

### **Update on Special Education Realignment Plan**

Ms. Mason reported that staff is moving forward with IEP meetings with central office case managers in order to provide a smooth transition to middle and high school for those students. Staff has met with the principals with an update, and there will be a followup on the master schedules.

Ms. Brandman wanted to know what preparations were made for the students who voluntarily returned to their home school. Ms. Mason replied that all students are receiving the same supports.

Ms. Brandman asked about staffing concerns. Ms. Mason responded that the high schools have no staffing issues, but middle schools may need more staff. Also, there is a clear process for allocating paraeducators. Training is scheduled for August 20 and 21, 2007.

### **Next Steps and Future Meeting Dates**

The committee will meet every month on the third Tuesday, but the next date has yet to be determined.

Future agenda items will include a followup with the SECIT, transition, realignment, Strategic Plan data points, and disproportionality.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.