

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

July 19, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. with the following Board members and support staff present: Shirley Brandman (chair), Sharon Cox, Ben Moskowitz, Nancy Navarro, Roland Ikheloa, and Glenda Rose (recorder).

Staff present: Gwen Mason, Judy Pattik, Felicia Piacente, Laura Steinberg, and Mary Lee Phelps.

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

**FINAL REPORT OF THE SECIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The advisory committee presented its final report to the committee. The major focus of the report was the use of the publication, *Special Education at a Glance*, and the principals' guide. Other recommendations included expanded collaboration and communication between special and general education teachers; comprehensive plan for systemwide professional development to support Universal Design for Learning; and charge and membership for the advisory committee.

Ms. Brandman requested that the SECIT report should clarify the term for members that do not "currently" have students in school. The Board Office will designate a liaison for the SECIT. Furthermore, the chairs of the SECIT are invited to attend the committee meetings as frequently as possible.

When the committee meets in September, there will be a decision on making a recommendation to the full Board, especially the charge to the advisory committee. In addition, recruitment for new committee members should be a focus in the coming month.

**UPDATE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION REALIGNMENT PLAN**

Ms. Mason distributed a document entitled, *Status Report on Secondary Learning Center Transition*. The handout identified the schools receiving students (confirmed and undecided), supports needed, and case manager contacts with the schools and parents. Staff will update the chart on student assigned to home school/alternative placement to include the rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders who are not at their home school.

Ms. Brandman inquired about lessons learned or trend data through the process of realigning the special education programs, and she wanted to review the entire continuum available for special education students, especially those who are not attending their home

school. Staff was convinced that all was going well, and they will know more in October with final enrollment figures and staffing allocations.

Ms. Cox asked about the assessment of staff training and the competence level of schools. Staff stated that they were excited about the professional development, and the principals want special education students in their buildings using the educational and behavioral strategies. There was a discussion about co-teaching, master schedule, counselors, and the assignment of special education students. Staff stated that there are monthly meetings with the Office of School Performance to determine staffing allocations.

Ms. Brandman asked about the number of staff increase because of hours-based staffing. Staff replied that some double the number of teachers.

Ms. Brandman asked if there was funding for special education aides or paraprofessional in the budget to support High School Plus. Staff replied that there is support in the budget.

Ms. Cox reiterated that parents continue to tell her that general education teachers have no knowledge of the IEP. She asked about training, and how the effectiveness is monitored and assessed.

#### **DATA POINT FOR STRATEGIC PLAN**

The committee asked staff to come back to them with recommendations on the proposal to add data points to the Strategic Plan tracking special education students who receive diplomas.

#### **ALIGN SPECIAL AND GENERAL EDUCATION**

Ms. Brandman asked staff to follow up on the staffing plan. Ms. Cox asked for a memorandum to be sent to the Office of School Performance in response to the staffing plan. Please specify a due date.

#### **HOURS-BASED STAFFING**

Staff commented that they will have feedback from staff that are co-teaching using hours-based staffing. They will look at the factors and be ready to report to the committee in October.

Ms. Piacente gave a brief presentation on **work load analysis** based on the documentation from ASHA on speech/language specialists.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.