

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL POPULATIONS

January 21, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. with the following Board members and Board support staff present: Shirley Brandman (chair), Ms. Berthiaume, Mr. Kauffman, Roland Ikheloa, and Glenda Rose (recorder).

Staff and invited guests: Donna Hollingshead and Kay Romero.

Minutes

The minutes from November 7, 2008, were approved, as amended.

Committee Charge

On April 28, 2008, the Board reconstituted the Special Education Ad Hoc Committee into a standing committee that shall be named the Committee on Special Populations charged specifically with reviewing issues and instructional programs designed to meet the needs of special populations that require special education services, gifted and talented instruction, alternative programs, ESOL services, and multilingual supports.

Prior Committee Work

In reviewing the past work of the committee, it was determined that the group has spent time discussing the learning centers, special education staffing, collaboration action process, transition services, and reviewing the recommendations of the Special Education Continuous Improvement Team (SECIT). Furthermore, the committee had unfinished items on the work plan, including among other items the Disproportionality Report, Mark Twain phase-out, gifted and talented education, and alternative programs.

Work Plan Aligned with *Our Call to Action*

It was suggested that the committee should include in the work plan those annual reports and documents which are work on behalf of special populations. The agenda items would be supplemented by current issues or topics within the charge of the committee.

The committee designated the following items for the work plan:

Annual agenda items:

1. Special Education Staffing Plan
2. SECIT Report and Recommendations
3. ESOL Advisory Committee Recommendations

Other areas of interest:

1. Joint meeting with the Policy Committee for and update from AEI
2. Monitor implementation of Policy IOA, *Gifted and Talented Education*

3. Update on accelerated instruction for special populations
4. Review Disproportionality Report
5. Special education suspension
6. Monitor growth of the autism spectrum
7. Special education placements, especially the central IEP trends
8. Monitor ESOL and detailed picture of demographics
9. Presentation by IDENTITY
10. Review HSA data for special education students
11. Update on evaluation of alternative programs

Meeting Frequency

The committee agreed to meet every other month for 2 ½ hours. These meetings will be on the third Mondays from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

Action/Summary

1. Provide a copy of the Board item on evaluations from the Department of Shared Accountability
2. Schedule a visit to the Bridge Program (Churchill or Gaithersburg).

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.