

School Paraprofessional Advisory Council Meeting

May 17, 2011

Attendance: Regina Birdsell, CAS; Tony Maida, CES; Stefanie Carbone, SERC; Perri Murdica, CSDE; Loyola Welsh, MEUI; Donna Morelli, CREC; Iris White, CSDE

Updates:

CREC held two train the trainer sessions for their new COMPASS modules: Effective Supervision of Paraprofessionals, Paraprofessionals Assisting with Reading Instruction, Paraprofessionals Assisting with Math Instruction, and Paraprofessionals and SRBI. CREC is looking for input for additional training topic areas. Some participants have signed up for the Speech and Language Pathology Assistant Certificate and the Paraprofessional Educator Certificate. CREC has signed a contract with an educational agency in the Netherlands and they will be translating the COMPASS series into Dutch and training paraprofessionals and teachers, using the content. Sarah Barzee and Peg MacDonald will be going out to do a train the trainer session for them in September.

SERC has begun planning its fall Paraprofessional Conference. Plans have to be finalized by July. Council members had suggestions for breakout sessions: the role of the paraprofessional in supporting assistive technology, introduction to smart boards and quick tips, I pad, South Windsor's district wide program for paraprofessionals, creating a classroom team, community based instruction, school climate tied in with behavior, job coaching.

Roses for Autism in Guilford could be a possible vendor (all the people she employs have Autism).

CSDE: George Coleman is still the Acting Commissioner. The closing date for applications was May 6th. No official word on when new commissioner will be appointed.

Congratulations to Perri Murdica who has accepted a position in Southington as the Special Education Director. We will miss you!

The Council reviewed the Draft Paraprofessional of the Year proposal and provided suggested revisions (please see attachment)

Meeting Dates for Next Year: All Tuesdays, 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. at CAS, Cheshire: September 20th, November 15th, January 17th, January 24th (snowdate), March 13th, and May 15th.