

School Paraprofessional Advisory Council Meeting Notes

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

In Attendance: Regina Birdsell, CAS; Bill Walkauskas, CSEA; Patti Fusco, AFT Connecticut; Marcia Cattanach, AFT Connecticut; Geraldine Jackman, IFTPE; Janet Scialdone, CREC; Heather Dawes, SERC; Rhonda Kempton, CSDE; Annie MacDonald, UE; Pat Sampson, AFSCME; Loyola Welsh, MEUI; Iris White, CSDE

Guests: Mary Beth Bruder, Christine Sullivan, Jerri Hanna, from the A.J. Pappanikou Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

CREC Update: CREC has revised the COMPASS basic curriculum with update information, resources and materials, including a participant workbook. CREC has scheduled 2 days of training, November 4th and January 10th on the revised COMPASS Basic modules (Roles and Responsibilities, Communication, Behavior Techniques, Legal and Ethical Issues, and Instructional Strategies) for trainers who were previously certified in these modules. CREC is also developing a website for certified COMPASS trainers that will have all updated COMPASS materials, additional resources that would be helpful and opportunities for discussions online.

SERC Update: The November 14th conference brochure is almost ready. Perri Murdica will be the guest speaker. The cost of the conference has gone up to \$95 this year to pay for online registration. Teachers and paraprofessionals from Priority School Districts, School Paraprofessional Advisory Council members, and the five finalists for Paraeducator of the Year will have their registration fees waived. Heather will create a special code for council members to use when registering online.

SERC has scheduled two Paraeducator Learning Seminars, one on Autism and the other on Understanding Challenging Behaviors, for this school year. Both will be held on Saturday, January 14, 2014 from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in the SERC Classroom, Middletown. Registration link: <http://14-02-115-es2.eventbrite.com/?rank=5>

CSDE Update: The Assistive Technology Guidelines are now available on the CSDE Bureau of Special Education page: <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2663&q=334974>. The Bureau of Special Education is holding its annual Back to School Meeting on Wednesday, September 18th. Iris, Rhonda, and consultants from the Talent Office are forming an internal SDE group to oversee paraeducator issues. Iris received a call from Marilyn Likins, Director of the National Center for Paraeducators about Connecticut hosting the 2015 NRCP Conference. CSDE has agreed to host and requests that we not hold the fall conference, but just the one NRCP conference that year. NRCP does not plan to hold a conference in 2014.

Paraeducator Manual: Rhonda, Anthony, and Heather met this summer to discuss the development of a handbook for districts to use as a model/framework to develop their own handbooks. Vancouver, Washington had a nice example and the suggestion was to divide it up according to the competencies laid out in the Vancouver Manual. Iris will do a crosswalk between the competencies in the Vancouver Manual and the CT Guidelines book.

Needs Assessment: Mary Beth Bruder, Christine Sullivan, and Jerri Hanna from the A.J. Papanikou Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities came to share the needs assessment they conducted in Avon. CSDE is interested in possibly using a revised version of this survey statewide to assess the training needs of paraeducators.

Next Meeting Agenda:

Manuals, Paraeducator Certification, SERC/CREC/CSDE Updates

Tuesday, November 12th, 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. at CAS, Cheshire.