

School Paraprofessional Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 2, 2011

CAS

In Attendance: Marcia Cattanach, Stefanie Carbone, Perri Murdica, Bill Walkauskas, Donna Morelli, Annie MacDonald, and Iris White

CREC Updates: Donna shared brochures on two exciting opportunities for paraprofessionals: The Paraprofessional Educator Certificate and the Speech and Language Pathology Assistant Certificate.

SDE is sponsoring a second train the trainer on March 25th and March 30th on the new COMPASS Modules. Paraprofessional Role in SRBI and Teacher Supervision of the Paraprofessional will be covered on March 25th and Reading and Math Strategies on March 30th. Perri and Iris reviewed both modules and thought they were excellent.

SERC Updates: SERC's fall paraprofessional conference will be held on November 16th. Perri, Stefanie, and Iris did have a preliminary meeting where they decided to try and continue with fee waivers for para-teacher teams. Evaluation results showed participants liked the idea of not having a keynote speaker, so that will continue next year.

Stefanie and a colleague will be presenting a workshop at the National Resource Center for Paraprofessionals Conference which will be held in Harrisburg, PA next year. The assistant superintendent from South Windsor John Zalkiewicz will also be presenting.

SDE Updates: Districts received a memo last January asking the Superintendent to identify their District Contact Person for the coming year. Iris will forward the updated list to council members.

No word on new Commissioner. George Coleman is serving as Acting.

Council members suggested Iris look at the following documents for information to include in future district contact newsletters: Paraprofessionals and SRBI Bulletin, AFT Standards for a Profession, CEC Code of Ethics (finalized version may not yet be public), Current CT Paraprofessional Legislation, LRE Newsletter, Basics of the IEP Manual. Paraprofessionals might also benefit from information on the Common Core State Standards and sample communication forms for teachers and paraprofessionals. An article could be written to address the misunderstanding regarding the term "supervisor" when related to teacher directed support of paraprofessionals and the question of who is the paraprofessional's supervisor, the general ed or special education teacher.

Summer before school starts might be a good time to provide professional development to paraprofessionals. Iris will ask survey district contacts to find out which districts will be providing professional development to their paraprofessionals before school starts. We then might consider regionalization or providing training for districts that are close together.

Paraprofessional of the Year Proposal: Revisions were made to the draft proposal. Thank you again to Regina for putting the draft together. The revisions will be brought to the next council meeting for additional member input.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 17th, 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. at CAS, Cheshire.