

**ILLINOIS STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL  
ON THE EDUCATION OF  
CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

**Illinois State Board of Education  
100 North First Street  
Springfield, IL 62777  
State Board Room**

**Business Meeting  
September 11, 2008  
9:00 a.m.**

**I. Procedural Business**

ISAC Chair Susy Woods called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was present.

**ISAC Members Present**

Beth Conran  
Nora Donahue  
Frances Elbert  
Deb Fornoff  
Carrie Janes  
Suzanne Lee  
Jennifer Naddeo

Marjorie Olson  
Mike Otte  
Rahnee Patrick  
Heather Perkins  
Beth Purvis  
Rick Ramirez

Sharon Slover  
Kristine Stanley  
Jim Surber  
Stanley Valentine  
Lanée Walls  
Susy Woods

**ISAC Members Absent**

Marva Campbell-Pruitt  
Teresa Garate

Anel Gonzalez  
Kyle Packer

**ISBE Members Present**

David Andel  
Beth Hanselman

Jodi Fleck  
Melanie Fleenor

Deb Kunz  
Kathy Stratton

**Guests Present**

Deb Einhorn

Family Matters

**Introductions**

Chair Woods welcomed ISAC members, staff and guests and asked that they introduce themselves. Chair Woods shared that due to personal issues, Brad Hedrick has resigned his position with ISAC.

## **Adoption of Agenda**

**Motion #1** – Deb Fornoff **moved** to “adopt the agenda as presented.” Jennifer Naddeo **seconded** the motion. **The motion carried.**

## **Approval of Business Meeting Minutes from June 12, 2008.**

**Motion #2** – Beth Purvis **moved** to “approve the minutes of June 12, 2008 as presented.” Stan Valentine **seconded** the motion. **The motion carried.**

## **II. Public Participation**

Deb Einhorn from Family Matters stated that the draft of the Parent’s Guide had been received and comments/suggestions were made and sent back to Deb Kunz at ISBE. Ms. Einhorn requested that when future task forces and parent groups are established, that parent mentor groups such as Family Matters be included from the beginning.

## **III. ISBE Update**

### **LEA Determinations**

Jodi Fleck, Principal Consultant, reminded ISAC members that every school district in the state must meet one of four criteria in the compliance indicators from the State Performance Plan. They are Indicators 9 and 10 – disproportionality; 11 - Child Find; 12 – transition from Part C to Part B; 13 – secondary transition; 15 – correction of noncompliance within a 12 month period; 20 – valid and reliable data; and, audit findings. Last year out of 871 school districts 371 met requirements across all indicators, 500 were given a needs assistance ranking and they must write an improvement plan. The majority of these were for Indicator 13. The federal government made some changes that effected the school districts’ data. It is anticipated that a lot of those problems will be taken care of this year. There were no districts in either the needs intervention or needs substantial intervention rankings. So far 66 plans have been approved. The plans are due October 1<sup>st</sup>

### **Focused Monitoring Update**

David Anadel, Division Administrator for Special Education stated that thirty districts will be visited this year. Educational Environment is the focus for their selection. Trainings will include one call-in session and two on-site trainings - one north and one south. Letters are going out next week to the districts.

### **Update on Proposed District Withdrawals**

Boyd Ferguson, Principal Consultant with the Special Education Division, discussed the upcoming proposed withdrawals that will be brought to ISAC during the next year.

Currently there are 11 proposed withdrawals: seven are resulting from the dissolution of DeKalb County Special Education Association as of July 1, 2008. Somonauk withdrew last year and the remaining seven will be completed by that time. Six are proposing to be stand-alone special education districts with the seventh joining with a nearby special education cooperative. The remaining four districts are from other areas of the state. Members discussed with Mr. Ferguson reasons why districts are withdrawing and ways cooperatives might assist their districts so they do not need to withdraw. It was also suggested that someone do an analysis of the economic impact from the withdrawals. Are the withdrawals actually achieving what they anticipated?

## **Other**

Beth Hanselman, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education distributed copies of ISBE's newly established Mission, Goals and Strategies. Senior management looked at the organizational structure and how to use data to move the agency forward. The State Department of Education from New York, Chicago Public Schools and New York City Schools met with representatives from the Illinois State Board of Education at Harvard. The meeting was totally immersed in how to change structure systematically and effectively. They looked at data and strategic plans in line with "where we want to go." This information was shared with Illinois State Board Members. Both groups came to the same conclusions because the data drove the activities. ISAC members received a copy of the agency Mission, Goals and Strategies. The ISBE Mission is: "The Illinois State Board of Education will provide leadership, assistance, resources and advocacy so that every student is prepared to succeed in careers and postsecondary education, and share accountability for doing so with Districts and Schools." Ms. Hanselman discussed the three individual goals and their strategies and how to share these across the agency and across the state down to the district level.

The veto session begins two weeks following the election. ISBE is beginning to look at legislation that might effect ISAC and special education. If members have any legislation that they think ISBE needs to take a look at, please share with Kathy Stratton and she will forward that to management. Ms. Hanselman will be meeting with IAASE to discuss what their legislative platform will be.

Prior to the meeting Ms. Hanselman shared the document "Positive Behavioral Support and Interventions in Schools: Guidelines August 2008." She asked for feedback from ISAC members before the end of September.

Celia Arresola, Principal Consultant from the Chicago office has been named as the liaison from ISBE who will work between all of the various bilingual subcommittees. It is possible that there will also be a contact person in the Springfield office in the future.

Statewide Student Information System (SSIS) – Ms. Hanselman stated that ISBE is currently working on a requirements document with contractors to look at the integration of special education data into their data. She is also going to be taking this information to the Illinois Association of School Administrators and the Illinois Principals Association in regards to student discipline, suspension and expulsion data. Federal funding could be in jeopardy if this information is not collected

Now posted on ISBE's website are two podcasts that Ms. Hanselman participated in. They focus on an overview of RtI and also how to write an RtI plan. The district improvement plans will address everything for that district. These plans will be reviewed across the agency and not divided between special education and general education.

The 401 Rules are to be addressed by JCAR on September 16<sup>th</sup>. At this time there is some doubt on the future of these rules. At this point JCAR has not requested any additional information from ISBE staff.

## **State Board Meetings / Future Meetings**

Chair Woods reviewed the list of State Board Meetings scheduled and the ISAC members who have agreed to attend. Future scheduled attendance includes: September – Bloomington – Deb Fornoff; October - Springfield – Marjorie Olson; November – Springfield – Beth Conran.; December – Springfield – Marjorie Olson.

#### **IV. Committee Reports**

Committee reports will be available in the next ISAC packet.

*Executive* – There was no meeting so there is no report at this time.

*Access* – Kyle Packer, Chair – Mr. Packer was absent from the meeting. Kris Stanley and Heather Perkins reviewed the goals for the upcoming year. They also reviewed accessibility for special students to general education curriculum, educational materials in alternative formats. They also discussed textbooks and available formats.

*Ad Hoc Communications* – Rick Ramirez – The goal is to have two issues of the newsletter this year. Illinois Assistive Technology will probably provide the printing service again this year. Chair Woods will ask if they are interested in doing that. Each issue will identify two subcommittees and identify their goals. It is hoped that a draft will be ready for the October meeting.

*Bilingual* – Tere Garate, Chair – There was no meeting so there is no report at this time.

*Comprehensive State Plan* – Beth Conran, Chair – There was no meeting so there is no report at this time.

*Family Communications* – Beth Purvis, Chair – During the meeting, the committee recommitted to the goal of gaining a better understanding of how ISBE measures the compliance of school districts to the spirit of communications outlined in state and federal school codes. The committee reviewed their goals for 2008-2009.

*Finance* – Mike Otte, Chair –The committee discussed the goals for 2008-2009 which include working to increase understanding of special funding formulas; collaborating with the Legislative subcommittee; advocating for fully funded special education services; and getting input from council members for the future direction of the subcommittee. The Finance committee will present at the ISBE Budget Hearing to be held on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

*General Supervision/Due Process* – Rick Ramirez, Chair – The group discussed access to various conflict resolutions options in the state. They looked at the indicators and timelines including due process and conflict resolution. Andy Eulass from ISBE shared that there were already 50 due process cases filed in the first couple of weeks of school. This subcommittee continues to look at alternatives such as facilitated IEPs. There remains concern about equal legal access for parents.

*Legislation* – Stan Valentine, Chair – Mr. Valentine discussed legislation that effect special education students. They discussed the impact of the Governor's cuts on the education of children with disability. He encouraged ISAC members to contact their local representatives and senators asking them to restore the cuts to Human Services. The subcommittee began discussion regarding the Legislative Breakfast for 2009. They would like to set up a phone conference to come up with five things they want from legislators.

*Personnel Development* – Marjorie Olson, Chair - This committee met with Bob Bigham and Beth Hanselman. They focused on the tremendous special education teacher and related services staff shortages.

*Rules and Regulations* – Beth Conran, Chair – Discussions included the 401 Rules; the Guidance Document ISBE developed relative to PA 095-0257 – Development of IEPS for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders; and, proposed rule change regarding student records she already sent notes.

**Motion #3** – Beth Conran **moved** that “the Chair of ISAC send a letter to the Joint Commission on Administrative Rules in support of changes in the 401 Rules.” Beth Purvis **seconded** the motion. **The motion carried.**

*Transition* – Deb Fornoff, Chair – The committee discussed their goals for the current year and expanding the participants to include other state agencies transition coordinators. Chair Woods reminded members of Transition Conference to be held in Peoria October 27-29, 2008.

*Ad hoc Communications Committee* – Rick Ramirez, Chair –

Ad hoc Nominating Committee – Marjorie Olson, Chair

**Motion #4** – Marjorie Olson **moved** that “ISAC dissolve the Ad hoc Nominating Committee. Sharon Slover **seconded** the motion. **The motion carried.**

*Illinois Interagency Coordinating Council on Transition (ICC)* – Marva Campbell-Pruitt was unable to attend the meeting so there was no report.

## **V. Old Business**

- A. Update on previous motions

## **VI. New Business**

- A. Details for October meeting – Kathy Stratton and Marjorie Olson discussed the details for the October ISAC meeting which will be held in Jacksonville.
- B. Special ISAC Meeting for the Purpose of Proposed District Withdrawals.  
**Motion #5** – Marjorie Olson **moved** that “ISAC add an additional meeting on May 6, 2009 in Bloomington, Illinois from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. specific to district withdrawals.” Jennifer Naddeo **seconded** the motion. **The motion carried.**
- C. Annual Report – Beth Conran will email the draft of the ISAC Annual Report. She asks that ISAC members email their suggested changes to her.

## **VII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.