

Due Process Screening Committee Meeting
May 3, 2005
ISBE – Springfield Office

Members in attendance:

Kathy Lyons, Chairperson
Jason Speaks
Amy Abele
Dr. Joe Vaal
Terri Devine
Dr. Christopher Koch

Others in attendance:

Darren Reisberg, ISBE Deputy General Counsel
Tom Britton, Hearing Officers Education Network (HOEN)
Brad Colwell, HOEN
Andy Eulass, ISBE Due Process Coordinator
Julia Quinn Dempsey, Due Process Hearing Officer
Nancy Hablutzel, Due Process Hearing Officer
Ann Breen-Greco, Due Process Hearing Officer
Carolyn Ann Smaron, Due Process Hearing Officer
Gail Friedman, Due Process Hearing Officer
Gene Friedman, Representative for Gail Friedman
Penny Richards, Learning Disabilities Association of Illinois

The meeting was convened at 4:19 p.m. After a review of the draft minutes for the Screening Committee Meeting of April 20, 2005, several modifications were discussed. Dr. Vaal motioned and Dr. Koch seconded to accept the minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Several announcements were then made. First, Dr. Koch reported that two hearing officers, Kathleen Dillon-Narko and Nancy Hablutzel, had tendered their resignations. Second, Andy Eulass reported to the Committee about an inquiry received from Dr. Robert Ladenson, a due process hearing officer. Dr. Ladenson had inquired about the right to tape Screening Committee meetings. Andy informed the Committee that he informed Dr. Ladenson that taping of open sessions of the Screening Committee could occur under the terms of the Open Meetings Act.

The Committee then turned to a discussion of the current evaluations of the Due Process Hearing Officers. Initially, Dr. Vaal made a motion to accept the HOEN evaluations and to forward the names of thirteen Hearing Officers to the Illinois State Advisory Council for reappointment for another year, beginning July 1, 2005. The names of those Hearing Officers were:

Marie Bracki
Ann Breen-Greco
Julia Quinn Dempsey
Alan Cook
Vivian Gordon
Sheana Hermann
Venita Hervey
Marian McElroy
Kathleen Plesko
Stacey Stutzman
James Wolter
Robert Ladenson

Dr. Koch noted that there were several responses that Carolyn Ann Smaron had supplied to her evaluation that should be made part of her evaluation. Therefore, Dr. Koch proposed amendment to the motion to accept the evaluations for all the Hearing Officers listed above, with the sole exception of Carolyn Ann Smaron. Amy Abele seconded Dr. Koch's amendment. Dr. Vaal then motioned to accept the evaluations for the 12 hearing officers and Dr. Koch seconded. The motion as amended passed unanimously.

In reference to the evaluation of Carolyn Ann Smaron, Dr. Koch motioned to accept the evaluation of Carolyn Ann Smaron as amended by her written responses and Amy Abele seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Koch then made a motion to forward Carolyn Ann Smaron's name to ISAC for reappointment for another year, beginning on July 1, 2005 and Jason Speaks seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee then turned to the evaluation of Gail Friedman. It was noted that Gail Friedman, through her representative Gene Friedman, submitted a lengthy response to her performance evaluation. Amy Abele motioned, and Dr. Koch seconded to accept the evaluation for Gail Friedman as written. The motion was not voted upon at that time.

After a discussion of the contents of the evaluation, Amy Abele made a motion to forward Gail Friedman's name to ISAC for reappointment beginning on July 1, 2006. No member of the Committee seconded the motion and the motion therefore expired.

The Committee then discussed Ms. Friedman's evaluation and ultimately voted to amend the evaluation based on a motion by Dr. Vaal that was seconded by Dr. Koch. Dr. Vaal then made a motion to forward Gail Friedman's name to ISAC for reappointment for another year beginning on July 1, 2005, with certain conditions as agreed upon the Committee. Amy Abele seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Dr. Koch then noted that an email from Ann Breen-Greco was received on February 24th in response to her evaluation. Dr. Koch read the full contents of the email to the Committee members.

Finally, Amy Abele made a request for Committee members to receive a copy of the complaint letter discussed at the April 20th Screening Committee meeting. Andy Eulass stated that he would disseminate this letter along with a new complaint that had been received just prior to the Screening Committee meeting.

Dr. Vaal then made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which Dr. Koch seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

APPROVED