

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

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

BUSINESS MEETING

February 11, 2009
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

Marva Campbell-Pruitt	Suzanne Lee	Sharon Slover
Beth Conran	Heather Munz	Kristine Stanley
Nora Donahue via phone	Jennifer Naddeo	Jim Surber
Deb Fornoff via phone	Marjorie Olson	Stanley Valentine
Teresa Garate	Mike Otte	Lanée Walls
Anel Gonzalez	Kyle Packer	Susy Woods
Carrie Janes	Rahnee Patrick	

ISAC Members Absent

Frances Elbert	Beth Purvis	Rick Ramirez
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ISBE Members Present

David Andel	Melanie Fleenor	Kathy Stratton
Scott Beever -presenter	Deb Kunz	Sally Vogl – presenter
Beatriz Diaz – via phone	Paul Nijensohn – via phone	Gwen Williams - presenter
Andy Eulass - presenter	Sarah Sebert – via phone	

Guests Present

Charlotte Des Jardins	Family Resource Center on Disabilities
Deb Einhorn	Family Matters
Terry Munz, Sr	Guest

Introductions

Chair Woods welcomed ISAC members, staff and guests and asked that they introduce themselves.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion #1 –Marjorie Olson **moved** to “adopt the agenda with the modifications of removing the ICC agenda item, adding Anel Gonzalez’s publication under New Business and extending the June meeting time.” Heather Munz **seconded** the motion. **The motion carried.**

Approval of Business Meeting Minutes from December 11, 2008.

Motion #2 –Jim Surber **moved** to “approve the minutes of December 11, 2008 as presented.” Stan Valentine **seconded** the motion. **The motion carried.**

II. Public Participation

Charlotte Des Jardins, Family Resource Center on Disabilities, once again addressed the Council regarding the appointment of the Parent of a Child with Disabilities positions on ISAC. Ms. Des Jardins objections are regarding the Nominating Committee Meeting which was held on April 10, 2007. Ms. Des Jardins feels that these parents were not properly nominated and therefore are not legally seated. She has filed a complaint on behalf of the Family Resource Center on Disabilities with the Illinois Attorney General’s office. She is also requesting that a new Nominating Committee Meeting be held.

III. Review/Discussion of New 405 Rules

Sally Vogl, ISBE General Council Staff, had previously shared the proposed 405 Rules and an explanation of what they entail. Beatriz Diaz, an attorney with the ISBE’s General Council’s office, joined the discussion via phone and offered further clarification. Council members expressed their concerns with these new rules regarding placement in nonapproved facilities. The ISAC Rules and Regulations Committee will meet via telephone to further discuss these rules.

IV. Proposed Legislation for Withdrawals

Beatriz Diaz, an attorney with the ISBE General Council’s office, stated that the proposed legislative changes to school district withdrawals from special education cooperatives that was discussed last year, is still under review and discussion. Ms. Diaz wanted to let ISAC know that this legislation is being looked at and will be brought to ISAC’s attention when it is available. No bill has yet been introduced.

V. Illinois State Board of Education Update

Due Process

Andy Eulass, Due Process Coordinator, ISBE, presented “Dispute Resolution in Illinois: Steps Toward Change” to the group. He led an in-depth review of the dispute resolution processes and options in Illinois. Mr. Eulass will return to a future ISAC meeting to discuss next steps.

Annual Performance Review

Scott Beever, Principal Consultant, ISBE, reviewed the Summary of the APR data that ISBE reported to OSEP on February 2, 2009. This summary shows the Indicator, the SPP Target percentage, the Actual Percentage met, the designation of Met/Substantially Compliant/Not Met, and the Progress/Statistically Unchanged/Slippage from FY06 Data.

Other

Parent’s Guide – Deb Kunz, Statewide Parent Consultant, Project Choices (with ISBE) reviewed parts of the new “The Educational Rights Guide for Students Who Receive Special Education Services”. It is anticipated that this will be in a format that can be easily stored in a binder and can be added to as parts of the Guide are updated. It will be updated on the web periodically. It is anticipated that after the first version is presented in English, it will be translated into 10 other languages.

Upcoming Events – Dave Andel, Division Administrator, Special Education Services, ISBE, noted that Paul Nijensohn and Sarah Sebert will be conducting two workshops for new directors of the nonpublic special education programs. They will be held on March 18th in Lombard and March 19th in Springfield. The Annual Nonpublic Conference will be held November 16-17, 2009 at the Hilton in Oak Lawn. The Special Education Director's Conference will be held August 5-7, 2009 in Peoria. More details will be provided in the future.

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: February – Springfield – Sharon Slover; March – Springfield – Lanée Walls; April – Springfield – Beth Conran; May – Springfield – Kris Stanley; and June – Springfield – Susy Woods

VI. Committee Reports

Committee reports will be available in the next ISAC packet.

Executive – Susy Woods, Chair – The Executive Committee met in January to hear an update from Jodi Fleck and Scott Beever on the Annual Performance Report that must be submitted to OSEP each year. They shared the summary of the APR Update which lists the Indicator, the SPP Target percentage, the Actual percentage, whether the state has met the target or not, and the Progress/Slippage from 2006 Data. They also shared an example of what the report for a specific Indicator looks like.

Access – Kris Stanley, Chair – The committee reviewed data from focused monitoring; looked at the current website and reviewed for accessibility; would like the accessibility of school buildings, school property, playgrounds, main office, etc reviewed during the withdrawal process; would like to request data from ISBE regarding the accessibility of school property; reviewed the parents survey to determine if these topics are included; and, looked at the definition of accessibility.

Ad Hoc Communications – Rick Ramirez – In Rick's absence Marjorie Olson reported that the group finalized the articles for the spring publication and discussed the distribution of the newsletters at the legislative breakfast.

Bilingual – Tere Garate, Chair – It was discovered that the By-Laws do not really state clearly the responsibilities of the Bilingual Committee. The group will pull that together and present at the next meeting. They would like to draft a survey to distribute to the large districts regarding their ELL needs. ISBE might be able to help with this survey using the Survey Monkey.

Comprehensive State Plan – Beth Conran, Chair – Ms. Conran reviewed the two proposed withdrawals that were presented at the Committee of the Whole Meeting. A vote on approving these plans was taken later in the meeting.

Family Communications – Beth Purvis, Chair – No meeting was held so there is no report at this time.

Finance – Mike Otte, Chair – This committee reviewed ISBE’s proposed budget and recommended that ISAC send a letter to legislators supporting the budget. Other areas of discussion were fully funded mandated categoricals; from where do transition services receive funding; and why was the bilingual education line for CPS cut?

General Supervision/Due Process – Rick Ramirez, Chair – No meeting was held so there is no report at this time.

Legislation – Stan Valentine, Chair – No meeting was held so there is no report at this time. The will continue to work on the details for the Legislative Breakfast which scheduled for April 3rd from 8:00 – 10:30 a.m. There will be money available to reimburse for student travel. Details will be forthcoming.

Personnel Development – Marjorie Olson, Chair – No meeting was held so there is no report at this time. Chair Woods confirmed that she had sent a letter to the parent who raised the issue of lack of services for secondary disabilities for the hearing impaired. After checking, it was determined that no complaints have been filed with ISBE that address this concern and ISBE is not aware of any systemic issues.

Rules and Regulations – Beth Conran, Chair – The committee discussed the new Part 405 Rules. These received clarification during Sally Vogl’s presentation earlier in the meeting. They also held a discussion relative to the 34 CFR Part 300 changes in IDEA regarding Parent Consent for services under IDEA.

Transition – Deb Fornoff, Chair – The committee welcomed guest members Mike Padavic representing IAASE and the Illinois Attorney General’s Select Committee; Deb Einhorn representing Family Matters PTIC; and Phil Milsk representing Educational and Disability Advocate. Topics of discussion included lack of collaboration/communication between agencies that service students with disabilities, lack of funding, several challenged students can’t count on funding for the supports they need in the community, starting transition at the elementary level, failure to think outside of the box, not affording the time to prepare a quality IEP, students lack opportunities for experience in the community, participants who view transition as a checklist rather than a process, and a lack of career planning requirements/imperative in Illinois.

Illinois Interagency Coordinating Council on Transition (ICC) – Marva Campbell-Pruitt, Chair – there was no IICC report due to the Joint IICC/ISAC meeting that was held yesterday.

VII. Old Business

A. Update on previous motions

Chair Woods reviewed the motions that had been made at the December Business Meeting.

B. Response from Legislators Regarding Funding Letter

Chair Woods stated that we have received several responses from legislators regarding this issue. Representative Jim Watson from Jacksonville called Chair Woods and stated that they are working on some kind of change on the way ISVI and ISD are funded.

VIII. New Business

Anel Gonzalez's book "Elementary to Talk about Disability Awareness" is being published. This book provides interactive stories to teach students about disability sensitivity. Students receive a certificate when they finish the book. This book is unique in that it is written in both Spanish and English – side-by-side.

After final discussion of the proposed Genoa Kingston CUSD 424 withdrawal from the DeKalb County Special Education Association, the following motion was made:

Motion #3 – Beth Conran **moved** "that ISAC send a letter to ISBE recommending that ISBE approve the withdrawal of Genoa Kingston CUSD 424 from the DeKalb County Special Education Association." Marjorie Olson **seconded** the motion. After discussion, Ms. Conran made the following amendment: "We recommend that ISBE request the district to assess their current support services for ELL students with special education needs." Marjorie Olson seconded the motion for the amendment. The motion to amend the first motion was approved. The vote to approve **the full motion carried** with one abstention and one opposed.

After final discussion of the Pontiac CCSD 429 withdrawal from the Livingston County Special Services Unit, the following motion was made:

Motion #4 – Beth Conran **moved** "that ISAC send a letter to ISBE recommending that ISBE approve the withdrawal of the Pontiac CCSD 429 from the Livingston County Special Services Unit." Marjorie Olsen **seconded** the motion. **The motion carried with one opposed.**

Motion #5 - Mike Otte moved that "ISAC send a letter to the legislators and the Governor in support of the ISBE recommended FY10 Budget." Heather Munz seconded the motion. After discussion regarding the cutting of bilingual education funding it was decided to table this motion.

It was noted that we have three proposed school district withdrawals on the agenda for the June 10, 2009 Committee of the Whole Meeting. It was decided that we will begin the meeting 12:00 p.m. to accommodate all of the withdrawals.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.