

Para Study Committee Meeting Minutes

12/8/10

Members present: Judy Chalfant ACCES, Robin Courtney office, Rhonda Denning admin., Molly Finley JCN, Deborah Harrell OES, Marlene Jolly JWES, Alex Prentice ACCHS, Tammy VanDyne McLouth

Members not present: Emily Bare JCNEMS

Backup members: Sherry Bingham JWHS, Tonya Haase ACCES, Christi Marshall JWES

The committee introduced themselves since we have new members. We were not able to enlist volunteers from the Perry or Valley Falls districts.

Rhonda handed out expense voucher forms and timecard copies. She explained how to claim time on timecards and mileage on expense vouchers for meeting reimbursement.

News from the State presented by Rhonda.

- **AARA fund updates.** 2.2.million dollars has to be recovered for the federal government. Kansas is the only state being penalized because they mishandled the money given by the federal government. Money will be recovered from any of these methods: State Administration, Direct Services, Training Funds.
- **Talk to your legislative representatives and watch education bills to make a difference for Keystone Learning Services.** Ask questions like “What are we going to do to replace the AARA money?” or “What is your vision for the future funding of education?”. Legislatures’ will be holding Coffee Clatches in local areas. These will be advertised in the local newspapers.

News from Keystone Learning Services.

- **Rhonda is trying to budget for up to a \$100,000 short fall of funds due to the AARA fund problems.**
- **Ozawkie building negotiations are in process.**
The plan is to move JDLA, PAT, TinyK, Keystone administrative offices, and possibly the Target Program to the building if acquired.
- **Para Inservice:**
 1. **There will be changes coming to the Infinitec web site in the coming year. It should be more user friendly and help people find topics related to needs.**
 2. **Remember to ask administration (Rob or Rhonda) to stay late or work on short week doing Infinitec classes or inservices with a teacher.**
 3. **Remember to do application form following Infinitec classes taken and approved for knowledge.**

- **CISL Review – Former and current educators from Emporia and Hays help districts to decide if they need to consolidate and how to save money based on documentation provided and interviews. The report will come in January.**
Being discussed already:
 1. **The seven Keystone districts may create a unified calendar for all the districts.**
 2. **Unified special education transportation.**
 3. **Keystone to provide trainings for all departments in the schools.**
- **Para and Teacher inservices will be held on January 3, 2011. Para inservice will be first-come, first-serve with a 30-person limit. There will be 3 sessions about computer usage. Information will be sent soon.**

The committee discussed what issues to address this school year. These ideas were presented:

- **Communication time and ways to communicate with teachers. Examples include binders, bulletin boards, or areas. Develop ways to communicate with regular education teachers as well.**
- **Para mentors for new paras in each building. Develop a checklist for the mentors and teachers to use.**
- **IEP at glance information.**
- **Inservice opportunities.**

Rhonda asked for everyone to bring ideas or information to the next meeting that pertains to these topics for us to work on.

Communications from schools.

- **Some paras feel like they need special education support in the districts.**
- **Several districts would like to see cross training between paras about students for days when paras are sick or gone.**
- **Paras would like to see better communication between teachers/paras and para/para. They would also like to be educated on dealing with behavior issues.**
- **The paras have expressed frustration about not being paid for snow days. Rhonda explained that they aren't allowed to pay for those days because the state doesn't reimburse on non-student contact days. Also, the school may make the days up. Paras may use personal paid days for a snow day.**
- **JW paras send a big "Thank You" for the star gifts for education week. They really enjoyed them. Other paras at the meeting wish to add their thanks also.**

Next meeting is February 9, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. at the Keystone Oskaloosa office.