



BOARD BRIEFS

September 17, 2008, Meeting

Action Items

Board accepted/approved:

The Minutes:

- γ *Minutes of:*
 - August 20, 2008, regular meeting
 - August 20, 2008, closed session

The Consent Agenda:

- γ *Personnel Issues:*
 - *Personnel Recommendations:* a) Resignations: 5 educational support personnel
 - b) Appointments: 2 certificated & 22 educational support personnel
 - c) Re-employment: 3 educational support personnel
- γ *Fiscal:* August, 2008 - Revenue/Expenditure Reports
- August, 2008 - Treasurer's Report
- August, 2008 - Gross Payroll & Interim Checks
- September 17, 2008 - Bills Payable

Discussion Without Action

Presentations:

Extended School Year (ESY) Programs:

Richard Laren, Coordinator for the Multi Needs/Alternative ESY Program, gave a slide presentation of the ESY program. He noted that this is the first year the Alternative School students have attended the program. The program served 236 students (an increase of 60 over last year) in twenty-nine different classrooms with a staff of 172. Mr. Laren stated the theme for the program was Olympic Summer but the focus of the instruction was to maintain the students' status towards their IEP goals. Evaluation surveys were sent to the parents with fifty-eight returned. Most were very complimentary with several requesting a longer day and some requesting a class to serve students with autism. This was a twenty-two day program with students attending from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. One field day was arranged by SEASPAR at Catalpo Park. Mr. Laren also made arrangements for two field trips with a forest ranger at Herrick Lake which was a tremendous success.

Joan Allison and Joyce Zimmerman, Coordinators for the Low Incidence ESY Program, also gave a slide presentation. The Low Incidence ESY program serves 92 districts. This year 165 students (an increase of 25 over last year) attended the program. The three hours per day, five days per week program was held from July 7, 2008, through August 1, 2008. The Coordinators stated that this year's program focused on Buggy for Reading. The parent surveys returned were mostly positive with several requesting a longer day. It was noted that the ESY program is a wonderful training ground with some of the teacher assistants/helpers returning as regular term teacher assistants or teachers after completion of the required course work and/college.

Southeast Alternative School Action Plan Update:

Larry Solomon, Program Administrator for the Southeast Alternative School, reviewed the Southeast Alternative School Action Plan Update which was developed as a result of the Southeast Alternative Program evaluation that took place during the 2006-2007 school year. Areas noted for improvement and timelines met or to be met and identifying responsible person(s) were:

1. Goal 1 - Continuous Professional Improvement and Capacity Building for Each Member of the Southeast Staff
 - a) Train Teachers in Curriculum Alignment and Mapping
 - b) Develop Partnerships with SASED Member District Teachers
 - c) Create Collaboration Meeting Format and Schedule
 - d) Develop Training Program for All Support Staff
2. Goal 2 - Continuously Improve Programs and Services for Students with Emotional and Behavioral Disorders
 - a) Develop Parent/Family Training Programs
 - b) Improve Communication Between Families and Home District
 - c) Explore Current Structures for Administration and BMS (Behavior Management Specialists)
 - d) Develop Extended School Year Program
 - e) Develop Facilities to Accommodate Growth in Programming
3. Goal 3 - Continuously Expand the Integration of Research Based Practices and Community Resources into Instruction
 - a) Expand the Use of Assistive Technology
 - b) Investigate the Need to Expand Transition Services to Students
 - c) Improve Mental Health Services and Supports for Students

Communications:

- 1) A letter from Sraga, Engler and Boyle, L.L.C. informing of the professional affiliation with the attorneys of Hauser, Izzo, DeTella & Petrarca, L.L.C. to form the new law firm of Sraga Hauser, L.L.C.
- 2) The Agenda for the District Administrators' Meeting on September 19, 2008.
- 3) The announcement of the open house of the remodeled and expanded Vision and Physically Handicapped Transition Facility at 825 N. Cass Avenue, Suite 117, Westmont, IL on October 7, 2008.

Director's Report:

Dr. Michael Volpe shared/reported on the following:

Orientation Day:

- Dr. Volpe has created an article for the SASED website which reviews the content and activities of the day and which links to a PowerPoint presentation with pictures of the staff and our "Years of Service Award" recipients. He encouraged all Board members to take a few moments to visit the SASED website and review the Orientation Day events that kicked-off the school year and SASED's fiftieth anniversary.

Enrollment:

- The total SASED student count as of 9/8/08 was 467 with the program enrollment break-downs as follows:

XDeaf and Hard of Hearing (PK-8) - 147*

XVisually Impaired (PK - 12) - 79*
XPhysically Impaired (9-12) - 12*
XMulti-Needs - PK - 12) - 107
XSoutheast Alternative School (1-12) - 98
XAutism (2-4) - 8
XTransition - 16*

* Enrollments include SASSED member districts' and DuPage/West Cook districts' students.

Special Education Procedures:

The recently revised ISBE Regulations for Special Education Services procedures were distributed as created by the Illinois Council of School Attorneys' Special Education Committee (Terry Engler from SASSED's legal firm participated on this committee). Dr. Volpe is in the process of checking to see if SASSED's member districts want to approve these as is or revise them and also whether districts want to individually approve them or have the SASSED Board of Control do so and submit them on behalf of the districts.

District Improvement Plans and RtI:

Dr. Volpe reported that after being in communication with Marty Wolfley at ISBE , he has copied for the Board the information concerning the District Improvement Plans and RtI from the ISBE website which he distributed for members to take back to their districts.

Presentation to District 68:

Dr. Volpe stated that the Administration presented the SASSED overview to the Board of Education of Woodridge School District 68 on August 25th.

Next Meeting: - October 22, 2008

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Michael Volpe at 630/778-4500.