



Special Needs Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes for March 1, 2010

12:00pm-2:00pm

Ohio School Boards Association

8050 North High Street

Columbus, OH 43235

Members in Attendance

Robyn Essman, Chair

Dayvenia Chesney

Rep. Randy Gardner

David Huelsman

James McClure

Jan Kennedy

Members Not in Attendance

N/A

Staff

Daria Shams

Emily Nemeth

Opening

Chair Essman called the meeting to order at 12:02pm and invited new members Jan Osborn and Ann Sheldon to introduce themselves. Introductions of other committee members followed. School Funding Advisory Council Member Richard Lukich joined the meeting for the purposes of the discussion.

Overview Presentation on Special Education and Gifted Education Programs in Ohio

Tom Lather, Associate Director of ODE’s Center for Students, Families and Communities delivered a presentation on special education and gifted education in the state of Ohio (available on the Council’s website at <http://sfac.education.ohio.gov>).

Mr. Lather noted that state operating standards for special education are in compliance with the 2004 federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and are assembled in a comprehensive guidance document for school districts available on the ODE website.¹ Subcommittee members were interested to learn how Ohio compared to other states in terms of funding strategies for special education, and Mr. Lather discussed a report done by Center for Special Education Finance in 2003 which provided a general overview of special education funding in the U.S.

In response to a question about the difference between funding for community schools and traditional public schools, ODE staff member Daria Shams explained that there is currently a disconnect between the funding in community schools and public schools. While community schools are still funded on a per

¹(<http://education.ohio.gov/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?page=3&TopicRelationID=786&ContentID=28143&Content=77281>)

pupil amount transferred from the student's school district of residence, traditional public schools are funded through Ohio's evidence-based model (EBM) funding system.

Subcommittee members discussed the differences between special education and gifted education funding, noting that special education is based on identification and gifted education is based on total ADM. Members were curious if there was a way to make comparisons between states. Ann Sheldon, Executive Director of Ohio Association for Gifted Children, explained there are best practices which the subcommittee can review, but to the best of her knowledge there is no easily available document that compares the gifted education funding systems of different states.

Resources needed prior to next meeting

ODE staff was asked to provide:

1. 2006 OCECD report
2. 2003 report produced by Center for Special Education Finance
3. Information regarding the shortage of preschool funding
4. A summary of House Bill 1 as it relates to Special Education, Gifted Education and English Language Learners
5. Nametags for new members
6. Confirm presentation by Dan Fleck, Educational Employee Consultant for Curriculum and Assessment addressing English Language Learners (ELL) education in Ohio

Proposed Agenda for March 25th Meeting

Dan Fleck will be presenting on ELL education.

Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm.