



Special Needs Subcommittee Meeting Minutes for February 4, 2010

2:25-3:30 p.m.
Battelle for Kids
1160 Dublin Rd., Suite 500
Columbus, OH 43215

Members in Attendance

Robyn Essman, Chair
Rep. Randy Gardner
David Huelsman
Jan Kennedy
James McClure

Members Not in Attendance

Dayvenia Chesney

Staff

Daria Shams
Emily Nemeth

Opening

Chair Essman called the meeting to order at 2:25 p.m., and invited members to introduce themselves. School Funding Advisory Council Member Richard Lukich joined the meeting for the purposes of the discussion.

Choosing additional members

Chair Essman indicated that her understanding of the subcommittee’s goal for the meeting was to recommend organizations that will suggest individuals for appointment as additional members, rather than to recommend specific individuals. School Funding Advisory Council Chair Delisle’s recommendations for additional appointments are detailed in Attachment 1. Members indicated they had received letters from the Ohio Association of School Business Officials, the Buckeye Association of School Administrators, and other organizations interested in contributing to the conversation. Some members said they felt that additional members could add real value to the work of the subcommittee, and others said that additional members should be experts, practitioners or stakeholders representing the various areas of the subcommittee’s charge. Members generally agreed that the appointment of additional members would be beneficial, and some had names of specific individuals in mind to recommend. One member emphasized the importance of investigating the importance of full-immersion special education classrooms.

Mr. Lukich suggested that a representative of the Ohio Coalition for Quality Education (OCQE) or a treasurer from a community school would make a good addition to the committee. Members had some interest in recommending an OCQE representative. Mr. Lukich asked how he might become an official member of the subcommittee, and Chair Essman advised him to speak with Council Coordinator Carey McDonald.

Ms. Kennedy indicated that she felt the groups being mentioned did represent non-public schools, in response to a specific question in this regard, and explained that non-public schools have more special needs students than is generally thought. Some members suggested the subcommittee might also

consider adding a member with a more objective source of expertise, such as a faculty member from a university, or an individual who does not have a particular agenda or vested interest.

Chair Delisle joined the discussion, and clarified the difference between external individuals who act as resources versus full subcommittee members. She explained the subcommittees can invite particular people in to participate in a discussion, but that additionally appointed members will participate in all discussions and will have a say in the subcommittee's final recommendations.

A few members suggested that the subcommittee should bring someone in with an understanding of finances, or look for someone with particular knowledge of the financial aspects of different types of schools. Ms. Kennedy explained that non-public schools receive no categorical funds, and that the Autism Scholarships is a particular area of concern for them.

Chair Essman asked the group if there was enough representation in the subcommittee from the different types of schools. She proposed inviting representatives from the different types of schools to come in and talk about the different financial situations, and members agreed that limiting the inclusion of additional members to keep the group at a manageable size was preferable.

Chair Essman recapped the conversation, and clarified that the subcommittee's recommendations would be to appoint an additional member from each of the Ohio Association for Gifted Children, the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities, the Ohio Department of Education's English as a Second Language Advisory Committee and the Ohio Coalition for a Quality Education. It was confirmed that members could make recommendations for people to come in and speak to the group.

Next three meetings and resources needed

Mr. Huelsman proposed identifying and thinking about the specific topics of the subcommittee proposed in law as well as any other related topics. Mr. Lukich proposed taking a more narrow focus on the topics assigned to the group by law considering the limited amount of time. Chair Essman agreed that it would be a good idea to go through House Bill 1 to familiarize the subcommittee with the relevant provisions and think about how the topics reflect on the general committee charge.

In response to a question about when the next subcommittee meeting would take place, Chair Essman said she would speak with Coordinator McDonald.

Proposed Agenda for 2nd Meeting

Discussion of topics related to the evidence-based model and review of special needs program history

- Overview of the history of the areas for which the subcommittee is responsible; fiscal impact of the evidence-based model (EBM); compliance with EBM.

Proposed Agenda for 3rd Meeting

- How does funding come into non-public, E-Schools, Community Schools?
 - Autism Scholarship Program—might require clarification in terms of HB 1 changes.
 - Special Needs Community— include someone who understands this particular funding.
 - An ODE staff member should attend who can handle the general nature of these questions.
 - Determine who the subcommittee wants to hear from at the 4th meeting (e.g. practitioners).

- Specific Areas for Consideration
 - Subcommittee wants to consider the different types of schools.
 - Does the EBM support the subcommittee's goals and does it impact every school type?
 - Is there anything that needs to be changed in the EBM? Does it need to look different for different schools?
 - What kinds of flexibility should there be?
 - How can the need for local interpretation be balanced with the intention of the law?

Proposed Agenda for 4th Meeting

- Ask people in the field to lend their expertise to the subcommittee. Learn about their experiences and gather their input.
- Ask new subcommittee members to give original subcommittee members insight on their particular areas of expertise.
- Reflection...what do we not know at this point? Who else do we need to bring in?
- Formulate an attack plan. Plan from here depending on the duration of the meetings. What is the overall deadline/schedule?

Closing

Remaining questions of subcommittee members included the timeline for subcommittee recommendations, when additional subcommittee members will join the group, and future meeting schedules. Audience members in attendance were asked to let the subcommittee or staff members know if they have additional information they believe the subcommittee should consider, or if they wish to address the subcommittee.

Chair Essman adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Attachment 1

Special Needs Subcommittee Handout

Primary areas of focus: Special education, gifted education, limited English proficient (LEP) education

Charge

“In preparing its recommendations, due December 1, 2010, the council's analyses shall include, but shall not be limited to, the adequacy of the model's financing for **special education, gifted education services... [and] services for limited English proficient students...** This analysis shall consider, for each area, current educational need, current educational practices, and best practices.” Sec. 3306.29 (C)(2)

Members

Robyn Essman, Chair
David Huelsman
James McClure

Jan Kennedy
Dayvenia Chesney
Rep. Randy Gardner

Recommended Additional Members

- Practicing special education educator
- Representative from the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities
- Practicing gifted educator
- Representative from the Ohio Association of Gifted Children
- Representative from the ODE English as a Second Language (ESL) Advisory Committee
- Representative from the Buckeye Association of School Administrators

Agenda for February 4, 2010

- **Discuss the subcommittee's recommendations for any additional member appointments.** The list provided above is Chair Delisle's recommendation for appointments for you to consider. If you identify appointments to be made, the Chair and ODE staff will work with the subcommittee to solicit and compile names for appointment that meet those criteria.
- **Decide the subcommittee's agenda for the next three meetings,** including any materials the members would like ODE staff to prepare or individuals from whom the subcommittee would like to hear. Chair Delisle recommends that subcommittees invite program experts from ODE to attend during one of these three meetings, to gain information as to the types of programs ODE already has in place, what types of programs are organized throughout the state, and help the subcommittee probe possible avenues of inquiry.
- **Consider what information and resources the subcommittee will need** to execute its long term agenda, including research, outreach to stakeholders or data requests, and what will be helpful to the subcommittee in forming its recommendations for the full Council.