



State Advisory Panel For Special Education

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**Minutes
 State Advisory Panel Meeting
 February 3-4, 2016
 UGA Hotel and Conference Center – Athens, Georgia**

February 3, 2016 – Room Q

Time	Events																													
1:00 – 1:30	Welcome Panel Member Introductions and Update	<p>Kyle Berry, Chair, and Pam Hunter Dempsey, Vice-Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed members. Panel members provided input and comments they wished to share.</p> <p><u>The following members were present:</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td>Bales, Scott</td> <td>Barnes, Rita</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Barnes-Watson, Constance</td> <td>Beard, Kimberleigh</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Berry, Kyle</td> <td>Joya Carter Hicks</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Burns, Beth</td> <td>Constantinides, Michelle</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cross, Deanna</td> <td>Dunn, Teresia</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gant, Alicia</td> <td>Steve Derr</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hall, Juree</td> <td>Hardeman, Juliet</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hunter-Dempsey, Pam</td> <td>Little, Jacqueline</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Murphy, Annette</td> <td>Nayak, Ganesh</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lipson, Leslie</td> <td>Mike Newton</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Colleen O’Toole</td> <td>Redmond, Jevondolyn</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jeffrey Allen</td> <td>Sayeh, Patricia</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shyman, Laura</td> <td>Smith, Laurie</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paul West</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Bales, Scott	Barnes, Rita	Barnes-Watson, Constance	Beard, Kimberleigh	Berry, Kyle	Joya Carter Hicks	Burns, Beth	Constantinides, Michelle	Cross, Deanna	Dunn, Teresia	Gant, Alicia	Steve Derr	Hall, Juree	Hardeman, Juliet	Hunter-Dempsey, Pam	Little, Jacqueline	Murphy, Annette	Nayak, Ganesh	Lipson, Leslie	Mike Newton	Colleen O’Toole	Redmond, Jevondolyn	Jeffrey Allen	Sayeh, Patricia	Shyman, Laura	Smith, Laurie	Paul West	
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1:30 - 2:00		<p>Superintendent Richard Woods, Georgia School Superintendent presented to the State Advisory Panel on his vision for educating and meeting the needs of Georgia’s 1.8 million kids.</p> <p>Mr. Woods thanked the Panel for their dedication in their service to the SAP.</p>																												
2:00 – 2:30	BREAK & CHECK IN																													
2:30 – 4:30	<p>2:30 – 3:30 Student Panel at UGA Conference Center</p> <p>3:30 – 4:30 Site Visit at the Disability Resource Center</p>	<p>Patricia Roth Marshall, M.Ed., C.A.G.S. Associate Director & Dr. Nicola Dovey, Sr. Assistant Director of the Disability Resource Center –UGA shared with the Panel the services offered by DRC which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible computer labs 																												

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative text • Assistance with financial aid procedures • Closed captioning • Consultation with faculty to advocate for students • Disability related peer groups • Note takers • Priority registration • Sign language interpreters • Test accommodations • Tutorial referrals • Realtime captioning • Referral as needed to other campus and community resources <p>The student panel answered questions and shared their experiences in dealing with their own disability while attending UGA.</p> <p>SAP members visited and toured the Disability Resource Center.</p>
6:00 – 7:00	Dinner (provided) – Magnolia Ballroom	
7:00 – 8:00	Public comment	<p>Public Comments were limited to 5 minutes or less depending on the number of individuals signed up to provide comment.</p> <p>Written comments were received from 3 people. A summary of Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special education services good in Fulton County • Services can be improved by keeping up with the latest technology methods proven to improve learning and independence • There is plenty of teacher/staff support in the classroom and school • One thing that I would like to change is more inclusion • Services can be improved by heeding FAPE which conflicts with grade-level required curriculum • Get rid of GAA • Special education services are lacking. Don't see students benefiting other than avoiding retention • Services for students can be improved by tailoring interventions to meet needs • Smaller class sizes seem to work well for students • Allowing students to learn from specialized programs (SRA, Lindamood Bell etc.) would improve learning for student with disabilities • Special education has become a catch all for students with no real difference from general education

Thursday, February 4, 2016 – Room Q

Time	Events	
7:00 – 8:30	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST (provided) Magnolia Ballroom & Hotel check-out	
8:30 – 9:30	Committee meetings	All committees met
9:30 – 10:15	Committee Reports	<p>Committees reported to panel on current activities and recommendations.</p> <p><i>Dispute Resolution:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 dismissals • 1 dismissal for failure to attend a pretrial hearing • 1 violation out of Houston County student with autism; court found violation under IDEA and FAPE <p><i>Operating Procedures:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine how to contact students that we would like to participate in our meetings • Ask DOE to send out notices to students in addition to what the panel would do • Suggest that students participate using skype or some other form of live video conferencing • Try to use public comment as much as possible and push information out to the school districts • Suggest DOE send a blast at the end of this school year • Suggest when building agenda we think about how we can incorporate student voice at our meetings instead of changing the operating procedures • Suggest that schools do a video to present at SAP meeting and/or use of DOE webpage • Suggest visit the Academy of the Blind at future meeting • Contact networks of students with disabilities <p><i>Public Comment:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility • Draft form to use for Survey Monkey questionnaire • Acknowledgement email • Hyperlink to SAP page on DOE website and reflect in minutes of meetings • Created letter that will assist all members of SAP to be able to blast out email reminder for public comment • Publicizing public comment on facebook and twitter • List public comment on right side of page under upcoming events • Announce public comment during monthly webinar • Hyperlink to public comment form • Suggest topics for public comment

Time	Events	
		<p><i>Family Engagement:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive school climate • Teacher support • Self-advocacy <p><i>Membership:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application for the next fiscal year is posted and the deadline for submission in April 1, 2016
10:15 – 10:30	Break	
10:30 – 11:30	<p>DOE Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) 	<p>Deborah Gay, Director Special Education Services & Supports Georgia Department of Education</p> <p><u>Summary of Every Student Succeeds Act Reauthorization of the Elementary & Secondary Education Act</u></p> <p>Debbie went through the highlights that include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State plans must include coordination between programs to include IDEA, the Rehabilitation Act, Perkins Career and Technical Education Act among others, and must include teachers, principals and parents. • Please let us know if you are interested in serving on a stakeholder group representing the special education population as a parent of other interested person <p>Debbie asked SAP members to list what they thought were barriers to student success for students with disabilities in Georgia. The list will be compiled and discussed at our next panel meeting.</p>
11:30 – 12:00	Wrap Up	<p>Kyle Berry, Chair Pam Hunter-Dempsey, Vice Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting will be held at the Macon Marriott, Macon Georgia on April 21-22, 2016