

SOUTHEASTERN COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
(SECEP)
MINUTES OF MEETING
DECEMBER 9, 2015

The Southeastern Cooperative Educational Programs (SECEP) held its Joint Board Meeting on Wednesday, December 9, 2015, at the Smithfield Building in Norfolk, Virginia.

PRESENT: Board Members: Mr. Thomas Mercer, Mr. Robert Holt, Mr. Alvin Wilson, Ms. Yvonne Wagner, Mr. James Bridgeford, Dr. Carolyn Modlin, Dr. Judith Brooks-Buck, and Mrs. Carolyn Weems

ABSENT: None

PRESENT: Committee of Superintendents: Dr. Craig Pinello, Director of Special Education representing Dr. James Roberts, Dr. Willie J. Bell, Mrs. Heather Tuck, Assistant Superintendent representing Dr. Jim Thornton, Dr. Melinda Boone, Dr. Elie Bracy III, Dr. Tonia Taylor, Director of Special Education representing Dr. Alvera Parrish, Dr. Deran Whitney, Mrs. Tania Sotomayor, Director of Special Education representing Dr. Aaron Spence

ABSENT: Committee of Superintendents: Dr. James Roberts, Dr. Jim Thornton, Dr. Alvera Parrish, and Dr. Aaron Spence

PRESENT: SECEP Staff: Mr. Donald R. Fairheart, Mr. David Sadler, and Mrs. Brenda Estes

INTRODUCTION OF SUPERINTENDENTS AND JOINT BOARD MEMBERS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Dr. Judith Brooks-Buck asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 30, 2015, Joint Board meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Thomas Mercer and seconded by Mr. Alvin Wilson. Motion carried. (Ayes 8, Nays 0)

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

None.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

None.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Mr. Fairheart acknowledged that all of the eight representatives from each school division were present.

PROGRAM ENROLLMENT REPORT:

Mr. Fairheart reviewed the information presented on each of the five programs SECEP operates.

PROGRAM UPDATES:

Program Update Reports were included in the board packets for the ASP/EBICS/REACH Programs, Re-ED/TRAEF Programs, and for the Department of Human Resources and Support Services. Mr. Fairheart reviewed and highlighted the information provided in the reports.

Mr. Fairheart mentioned that SECEP's Principal for the REACH Program, Ms. Terry Lyle, was named the 2015-2016 Champions for Children Honoree for Education and was honored at an Awards Luncheon on October 13, 2015. Ms. Lyle was nominated by a parent from the Williams School in Norfolk. Her daughter volunteered at St. Mary's Home for Disabled Children and helped out in the SECEP classrooms and came home and shared information with her mother about how impressed she was with the SECEP REACH Program and Ms. Lyle.

Mr. Fairheart stated that our K-5 SECEP students in Virginia Beach have transitioned to the standards-based system of instruction, assessment, and grading for the 2015-16 school year. Elementary K-5 classrooms in Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Suffolk will convert to standards-based grading for the 2016-2017 school year.

FISCAL YEAR BUDGET – 2016-2017:

SECEP traditionally holds the second Joint Board Meeting in January, but scheduling conflicts did not permit us to meet in January, therefore the Audit for 2014-15 and the proposed budget for the 2016-17 school year will be presented at the March 16, 2016 meeting.

FEDERAL MONITORING FEEDBACK:

SECEP has worked with all of the collaborating school divisions to complete the necessary tasks that were required as a result of the issues that we were deemed to be in non-compliance. In collaboration with individual LEA's, SECEP conducted IEP meetings to correct issues that were identified regarding student files. SECEP is now collaborating with each division to develop a process to review each of the student files placed in SECEP to make sure that a comprehensive and complete file is in place. A Corrective Action item that SECEP is addressing is the renovation and upgrade to the existing School Quiet Areas – Seclusion Rooms. These changes will be made over the course of the summer months. The final Corrective Action item that was discussed by Mr. Fairheart pertained to student transportation. VDOE stated that it is not "best practice" to utilize staff vehicles for transportation of our students for Community Based Instruction (CBI). This practice will be eliminated by the end of the current school year. SECEP will collaborate with the school divisions to provide transportation for CBI's. SECEP has also secured additional vehicles. SECEP

will hopefully be able to continue to provide this opportunity for our students. We should receive feedback in the fall when VDOE returns to review the files to be sure we have done what they have asked us to do.

REGIONAL PROGRAM STUDY:

Mr. Fairheart shared that he participated in a state-wide work group to study regional programs. He stated that this has become a "hot topic" in the general assembly because of the amount of money dedicated to regional programs. The big issue is that not all school divisions have access to a regional program. Specifically, larger divisions such as northern Virginia and the metropolitan area of Richmond. The cost of expanding regional opportunities would be very expensive. VDOE is looking at ways of providing either an alternative to the regional program or re-structure the regional programs to provide greater and equitable access across the commonwealth. The potential moving forward is that the funding methodology or access to services may change in some way. This is uncertain at this time. Mr. Fairheart asked that if discussion on this issue is brought up to please put in a good word for our regional program and others like SECEP throughout the state. It would be very difficult serve the 1300 plus students in our region without access to programming such as SECEP provides.

JOINT BOARD ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

None.

PERSONNEL DOCKET:

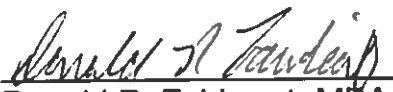
A motion was made by Mrs. Carolyn Weems seconded by Dr. Carolyn Modlin to accept the Personnel Docket. Motion carried. (Ayes 8, Nays 0).

THE NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME:

The next meeting of the SECEP Joint Board will be held on Wednesday, March 16, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Donald R. Fairheart, MBA
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED:


Judith Brooks-Buck, Chairperson