

SOUTHEASTERN COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
(SECEP)
MINUTES OF MEETING
OCTOBER 4, 2017

The Southeastern Cooperative Educational Programs (SECEP) held its Joint Board Meeting on Wednesday, October 4, 2017, at the Smithfield Building in Norfolk, Virginia.

PRESENT: Board Members: Mr. Thomas Mercer, Mr. Robert Holt, Mrs. Jacqueline Carr, Ms. Angelia Allen, Dr. Carolyn Modlin, and Dr. Judith Brooks-Buck

ABSENT: Ms. Yvonne Wagner and Mrs. Carolyn Weems

PRESENT: Committee of Superintendents: Dr. James Roberts, Mr. Tom Chelgren, Special Education Director for Dr. Jim Thornton, Dr. Melinda Boone, Dr. Elie Bracy III, and Dr. Deran Whitney

ABSENT: Committee of Superintendents: Ms. Tamara Sterling, Dr. Jim Thornton, Dr. Gwendolyn Shannon, and Dr. Aaron Spence

PRESENT: SECEP Staff: Mr. David Sadler and Mrs. Brenda Estes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Dr. Judith Brooks-Buck asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 31, 2017, Joint Board meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Robert Holt and seconded by Mrs. Jacqueline Carr. Motion carried. (Ayes 6, Nays 0)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Dr. Deran Whitney stated that the superintendents had nominated and selected Dr. Melinda Boone to become the Executive Officer for the SECEP Committee of Superintendents for the 2017-2018SY. Mr. Thomas Mercer nominated Dr. Judith Brooks-Buck as Chairperson. Nominations were closed. Dr. Judith Brooks-Buck nominated Mr. Thomas Mercer as Vice-Chairperson. Nominations were closed. The motion to appoint Dr. Judith Brooks-Buck as Chairperson and Mr. Thomas Mercer as Vice-Chairperson was unanimous. (Ayes 6, Nays 0). The slate of officers was presented:

Executive Officer:	Dr. Melinda Boone
Chairman:	Dr. Judith Brooks-Buck
Vice Chairman:	Mr. Thomas Mercer
Clerk:	Mr. David Sadler
Deputy Clerk:	Mrs. Brenda Estes
Agent:	Dr. Melinda Boone
Deputy Agent:	Mrs. Rhonda Ingram

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

None.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

Nothing to report.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

PROGRAM ENROLLMENT REPORT:

Mr. Sadler reviewed the information presented on each program, including the operation of the Summer Program for SECEP students.

Mrs. Jacqueline Carr asked Mr. Sadler why the enrolled numbers were low at the end of the 2016-17SY and also to begin the 2017-2018SY for the TRAEP Program. Mr. Sadler explained that this was typical of the TRAEP Program. The students at the end of last year were transitioned back. He also stated that the school year has just begun and divisions have not needed to utilize their slots yet. The goal is to transition the students back as soon as they are ready or have met the criteria for their long term suspension or expulsion.

PROGRAM UPDATES:

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

REACH Program - Mr. Sadler reported that the REACH Program at St. Mary's held their annual field day event on September 8, 2017, in conjunction with United Way's Day of Caring event. This event brought in volunteers from the City of Norfolk to work with our students in various activities. "Tye Dye It Yourself", a local business that specializes in teaching the art of tie dyeing, taught the students how to create school t-shirts.

ASP/EBICS Program – Mr. Sadler announced that our student Albert who came and spoke to the SECEP Joint Board last year at the March 2017 meeting about the Old Dominion University SECEP classroom was hired by ODU. SECEP was excited to celebrate this success of Albert transitioning into a work setting.

Mr. Sadler stated that five of the seven June 2017 graduates of the Project Search Program have been hired by local businesses.

Re-ED/TRAEP Programs – On August 29, 2017, all staff participated in training with Mr. Horacio Sanchez. Mr. Sanchez is the President of Resiliency Inc. The training focused on working with teachers to help them understand young people who have experienced trauma and how to meet their needs in our classrooms. Mr. Sanchez will be meeting with our staff two more times throughout this coming school year.

Mr. Sadler stated that SECEP will be emphasizing the camping program this year. The first camping trip was held September 28-29, 2017, at First Landing State Park with students from all of our centers. This was a very successful overnight camping trip. SECEP will be taking some of our 7-12th graders from all of our centers on October 17-19, 2017 to Gettysburg, PA. This will be another camping trip, but also focus on the SOL part of their instruction learning about the Gettysburg Battlefield.

PERSONNEL REPORT AND UPDATE:

Mr. Sadler presented the Personnel Report on SECEP staff. He reviewed the racial composition of the staff, hires pertaining to replacement and growth, and the reasons for professional staff leaving SECEP. The higher percentages of our teachers leaving were due in part to being hired by our local divisions. Mr. Sadler stated that SECEP does appreciate the fact that our teachers are picked up by our divisions. We are sad to see them go, but understand that this is helping build the capacity within the divisions to work with the level of difficulty that special needs students require. Included in the report was information on Service Awards and the SECEP Teachers and Teacher Assistants of the Year Awards. Mr. Sadler stated that SECEP will be modifying the procedures for Teacher of the Year Awards to align them with the state procedures so that SECEP can allow our teachers to participate in the overall Teacher of the Year for the state of Virginia.

SECEP LOCATIONS:

Mr. Sadler stated that an updated list on SECEP locations was included in the board packets for the 2017-18SY.

SEEDS OF CHANGE – FALL PIG & PANSY SALE:

Mr. Sadler announced the Seeds of Change Industries Fall Pig & Pansy Sale which will be held on October 13, 2017, at the Virginia Beach Renaissance Academy, and on October 20, 2017, at the SECEP Chesapeake Center @Great Bridge. Promotional flyers were included in each packet.

FEDERAL MONITORING – Office of Civil Rights (OCR):

On August 29, 2017, we received notification from the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) that SECEP has been slated for a Compliance Review regarding SECEP's use of Seclusion and Restraint. This is just a Compliance Review. Mr. Sadler stated that what has flagged this review is statistical data or information from parents, advocates, or information from the media. Mr. Sadler believes that our data on Restraint and Seclusion from our five centers that has been submitted to OCR since 2009 has prompted the review. SECEP utilizes Restraint and Seclusion only to ensure safety of students and staff. The Compliance Review will look at the compliance issue around whether or not the use of Seclusion and Restraint has impacted FAPE – Free and Appropriate Public Education for the students that SECEP works with. At this time no updated information has been received. As SECEP receives more information it will be

shared with the superintendents and special education directors. This is SECEP's first Compliance Review and is not from an allegation or a complaint.

SECEP went through federal monitoring with the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) in the Spring of 2014 for the REACH Program and then in the Spring of 2015 for all of the rest of SECEP's programs in regards to our instructional programming. In May of 2017, SECEP received notification from VDOE that we had met our Corrective Action Plan and that we were released from monitoring.

VDOE – Potential Changes to Regional Special Education Tuition Reimbursement Program:

VDOE has been charged with providing the Commission on Youth with an updated report on the utilization of the regional special education reimbursement program. This is the appropriation that provides tuition reimbursement for regional programs to the LEAs/Divisions. This is up for review. John Eisenberg, the Assistant Superintendent for VDOE, has presented twice to the Commission on Youth and he will be presenting his final update and recommendations on November 8, 2017, on any changes that may take place. Mr. Sadler stated that there was not a lot to report at this time, but he will keep the superintendents and special education directors up to date as new information is provided.

Dr. James Roberts, Superintendent of Chesapeake Public Schools, stated that Chesapeake's legislative agenda would be shared with State Legislators at a meeting on October 19, 2017. He asked Mr. Sadler to provide a paragraph on the information that has been received to date from VDOE regarding the tuition reimbursement program. He stated that the information will be helpful in communicating to the General Assembly that no changes are desired. Mr. Sadler will provide this information to all the superintendents.

Mr. Sadler stated that all divisions have access to these funds if they follow the state code and create their own regional program. At this point, VDOE is looking at the Commission on Youth to see if there is an easier way for divisions to utilize the funds and if this is in the best interest for students.

JOINT BOARD ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

None.

PERSONNEL DOCKET:

A motion was made by Mr. Robert Holt seconded by Ms. Angelia Allen to accept the Personnel Docket. Motion carried. (Ayes 6, Nays 0).

THE NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME:

The next meeting of the SECEP Joint Board will be held on Wednesday, February 7, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. B. Sadler', written over a horizontal line.

David B. Sadler
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, 'Judith Brooks-Buck', written over a horizontal line.

Judith Brooks-Buck, Chairperson