



Minutes

January 12, 2015

10:00 a.m.

Scarritt Bennett Conference Center
1008 19th Avenue South
Nashville, TN 37212-2166

Members of Council in Attendance

Chip Fair, Vice-Chair
Alfred M. Hacker
Brian Brown
Catherine Knowles
Chantal Hess-Taylor
Cleatrice C. McTorry
David Craig
Hillary Sims
James Topp
Jason Vance
Kyle Hauth
Mary Johnson
Mary Meador
Paula Brownyard

Members Not in Attendance

Cynthia Cheshier, Chair
Darlene Walden
Dawn Bradley
Gayle Feltner
Jeff Ker
Katie Culberson
Shannon Taylor

TDOE Employees in Attendance

Joey Hassell, Assistant Commissioner
Steve Sparks, TDOE – AC Contact
Tabatha Siddiqi, TDOE – AC Contact
Alison Gauld, TDOE
Amy Owen, TDOE
Bill Wilson, Office of General Council
Blake Shearer, TDOE
Gary Smith, TDOE
Joann Lucero, TDOE
Karen Willis, TDOE
Nathan Travis, TDOE
Rachel Wilkinson, TDOE
Ryan Mathis, TDOE
Theresa Nicholls, TDOE
Tie Hodack, TDOE

Visitors in Attendance

Abbie Jenkins
Krystal Kennedy
Susan Dalton

Meeting Focus/Purpose *To provide policy guidance with respect to Special Education and Related Services for children with disabilities in TN*

Welcome/Introductions

Chip Fair/Vice-Chair

Announcements from the Chairperson/Vice-Chair

Chip Fair

- ❖ Cynthia Cheshier, Chair, absent
- ❖ Chip Fair, Vice-Chair, acting in Cynthia Cheshier's stead
- ❖ Joey Hassell begins his third year of Advisory Council participation

Approval of Current Agenda –

- ❖ Suzanne Keefe is absent and Joey Hassell will present, on her behalf, the Partners in Education (PIE) Conference update(s)
- **Action Item** – Council member, Hillary Sims, made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Council member, James Topp.
- **Final Action Taken -**
The Council unanimously voted in favor of approving the current, January 12, 2015 agenda.

Approval of October 20, 2014 Meeting Minutes – See website for October minutes (http://www.tn.gov/education/student_support/advisory_council.shtml)

- **Action Item** – Council member, David Craig, made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Council member, Kyle Hauth.
- **Final Action Taken -**
The Council unanimously voted in favor of approving the October 20, 2014 meeting minutes.

Report from the Chairperson/Vice-Chair

Chip Fair

- ❖ Cynthia Cheshier received an email, from a concerned stakeholder, posing three questions regarding the council's role:
 1. Respectfully, may I inquire as to a clarification of the action that this council is working to accomplish, via your language of “promote” in the heading of each of our goals?
 - Cynthia's response – To address your question, about the language “to promote”, the council's role is to advise the Governor and, depending on the topic, advise the State Board of Education. The council gathers information, asks questions, and makes recommendations in order to fulfill our mission of influencing policy as stated in our by-laws. Once we have accomplished this role, the council members have done their job and the decisions that follow are not up to the council.

2. Specifically, I would like to address Goal 8 of RTI implementation. Roughly 90 days into the school year, what is the council's check and balance for this program?
 - Cynthia's response – Concerning RTI, the council again gathers information from the state to address this goal. We work to encourage proper implementation and best practices, but are not in charge of the action on the state level.
 - Joey Hassell – There are two checks and balances. One is through our Office of Consolidated Planning & Monitoring. Second is a readiness survey that all districts completed. Prevention & intervention is the right work for students.

 3. In regard to Common Core Standards, in TN schools, I am sure you, and the members of this council, realize that the Common Core Education Program does not provide for children with special needs, special education, and autism. Furthermore, based on the ADA, this is illegal. I did not review any guidelines to address this issue in your 14-15 school year goals. Would you please explain to me if there are any current guidelines, that this council may be working from, in regards to this extremely important matter?
 - Cynthia's response – In response to your question about Common Core, the Council makes comments and recommendations on these types of standards, but we do not dictate changes to policy.
 - Joey Hassell – IDEA charges us to provide all students access to the general education curriculum. Our role, from a program perspective, is access to standards. In 2015-16, TN will have a new assessment, Tennessee Ready (TNReady).
- ❖ Recommendation to put AC purpose/vision, and then the elaboration with links, on the website.
 - ❖ Update on the PIE Conference presentation. Jim Topp
 - ❖ AC By-Laws Revision (AC Goals 1,7) Mary D. Johnson
 - Add person first language
 - Typos need to be corrected
 - Change all "children" to "student" regardless of age
 - Vote to make above changes at the April 13 meeting Bill Wilson
 - Can make no changes to State or Federal statutes

 - ❖ Isolation/Restraint Data 2013-14 SY (AC Goal 6) Chip Fair
 - ❖ Now have two years of data
 - ❖ Need to take steps to ensure we are getting good clean data
 - ❖ Time line will be discussed at the April meeting

TDOE Initiatives

Announcements

Joey Hassell

- ❖ New employee, Blake Shearer, High School Intervention & Transition Coordinator
- ❖ Steve Sparks has transitioned to the Office of General Counsel
- ❖ Kay Flowers has retired and will return part time in February

- ❖ School-based Support Services have shifted to Special Populations
- ❖ We now have a complete Office of Early Learning (Head Start, Special Education Preschool, Voluntary pre-K, School-based Support Services, and TN Early Intervention (TEIS)
- ❖ Commissioner McQueen's first day will be Tuesday, January 20, 2015

PIE Conference (AC Goal 1, 4, 7)

Joey Hassell

- ❖ Pre-conference focused on RTI in High School
- ❖ Conference themes
- ❖ AC Presentation
- ❖ Keynote speakers: Melanie Musgrove, Eric Carter, & Dewey Hensley
- ❖ Governor Haslam will be at the luncheon, on day 2, his schedule permitting

Annual Performance Report (APR) (AC Goal 6)

Rachel Wilkinson

- ❖ Finalized APR due on February 2, 2015
- ❖ The following indicators were all met: 2, 4A, 4B, 5A, 5B, & 13
- ❖ Numbers are looking very good

State Identified measurable Result (SIMR) (AC Goal 6,7)

Amy Owen

- ❖ Phase 1 will be submitted this April
- ❖ Results, rather than compliance, focused
- ❖ Focused on achievements through grade 3
- ❖ Narrowed our focus to students with specific learning disabilities
- ❖ Identify strategies & a theory of action that are likely to lead to improvement

RTI² Trainings for School Psychologist (AC Goal 8)

Theresa Nicholls

- ❖ Trained 1,300 psychologists last year
- ❖ Evaluation results very positive
- ❖ Provided training on Instructionally Appropriate IEPs
- ❖ Trained 2,400 special educators in the Special Education Framework

State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) (AC Goal 4)

Theresa Nicholls

- ❖ Preparing the State Personnel Development Grant proposal for next year's funding

Lunch Provided

Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports (PBIS) Plan (AC Goal 1,8)

Alison Gauld

- ❖ We have seven contracts within the state and all of them expire on June 30, 2015
- ❖ Working on our next round of contracts
- ❖ Starting a PBIS taskforce to work alongside the contractors

National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC) Programming
(AC Goal 1,3)

Alison Gauld

- ❖ NCSC is the alternate assessment to what was TCAP and is now TNReady
- ❖ Delivered 14 NCSC trainings between August and December 2014
- ❖ A second round, of 12 additional in depth trainings, are being prepared and will be based on daily instruction
- ❖ The third training, in the fall of 2015, will be based on these technical questions: “How do you enter students into the system?”; “How do you access the system?”, “How do you use the tests online?”
Lori Nixon will lead the training.

Occupational Diploma (AC Goal 2)

Alison Gauld

- ❖ Maryville will have our first Occupational Diploma recipient
- ❖ Cleveland City will be presenting about these diplomas at PIE
- ❖ The physical diploma design should be complete by the end of January
- ❖ Recipients are selected on a student by student basis

New Business/Additional Items

Vice-Chair

- ❖ This years' TAASE Cup, for one of the three grand divisions, went to Chip Fair

Call for future meeting suggestions

Chair

(i.e., agenda items, meeting invitations, solicitation of input)

- ❖ None suggested by members during this meeting.
- ❖ Reminder provided to send suggestions to Steve Sparks and/or Tabatha Siddiqi as they come to mind.

Next Meeting

April 13, 2015
(Meeting 4 of FY2015)
Scarritt Bennett Center

Confirm dates of next 4 meetings

Steve Sparks

The dates below were proposed as dates for the Council's next 4 meetings.

- ❖ Monday, January 12, 2015
- ❖ Monday, April 13, 2015
- ❖ Monday, July 13, 2015
- ❖ Monday, October 12, 2015

All members present agreed that the above dates were acceptable and that they should be placed on the Council's calendar on the State website.

- **Action Item** – Council member, Brian Brown, made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council member, Hillary Sims.
- **Final Action Taken** – The Council unanimously voted in favor of adjournment.