

State Special Education Advisory Committee (SSEAC)

Holiday Inn Express

Richmond, Virginia

July 23, 2009

Thursday, July 23, 2009

SSEAC Members					
	Present	Absent		Present	Absent
Eva Aikens	x		Fran Goforth	x	
Judy Averill		x	Melodie Henderson	x	
Mike Behrmann	x		Mona Holmes		x
Suzanne Bowers	x		Jacqueline Nelson		x
Bob Chappell	x		Jennifer O'Berry-Ham	x	
Mary Ann Discenza	x		Peter Squire		x
Christina Draper		x	Tamara Temoney	x	
Anne Fischer	x		Carletta Wilson	x	

Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Staff							
Doug Cox	x	Pat Amann	x	Gloria Dalton	x	Pat Abrams	x
Cathy Pomfrey	x	Paul Raskopf	x	Cindy Cave	x	Susan Trulove	x
Judy Douglas	x	Irene Walker-Bolton	x	Tom Manthey	x	Melissa Smith	x

Guests					
Kathy Maybee (PEATC)	x	Samantha Vanterpool Rucker (OAG)	x	Judy Hudgins	x
Cheryl Ward - Endependence Center	x	Mike Williams Minnick Education Center	x	Robin Peeler - Minnick Education Center	x
Nancy Reder - NASDSE	x				

Call to Order

Dr. Mike Behrmann, Chair, called the meeting to order. He asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Business Session

Agenda

Dr. Behrmann reviewed the agenda with members.

Minutes

Ms. Anne Fischer stated that her name was misspelled. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Ms. Fran Goforth and seconded by Ms. Fischer. All members voted to accept the minutes.

Subcommittee Assignments

Members reviewed the subcommittee matrix.

Dr. Mike Behrmann, Chair of the Executive committee, stated that the other members of the executive committee would be Ms. Suzanne Bowers, Vice-chair, Ms. Jennifer O'Berry-Ham, Secretary and Ms. Mona Holmes, Dr. Peter Squire and Ms. Jackie Nelson would remain as at-large members.

Dr. Behrmann confirmed the subcommittee chairs - Ms. Christina Draper, Constituency Involvement, Ms. Jennifer O'Berry-Ham, Personnel and Dr. Peter Squire, Response to Intervention (RTI).

Operational Procedures and By-Laws

Procedures and Bylaws were reviewed with several questions asked and suggestions were made noting several areas possibly needing adjustments.

- o Article 7 Section 3 – Ms. Anne Fischer questioned that terms begin on even numbered years – this may be an issue if someone leaves before term is over; will ensure continuity of the committee; cycle is now in July for appointments
- o Change to annual appointments; term is now three years, not four
- o Is it possible to ask the Board of Education to consider an appointment off of their regular schedule? This may be better suited in the procedures, not By-laws.
- o Change By-laws to include that the Board of Education appoints members in July, and members' terms expire in July – Executive Committee will draft changes in By-laws to bring to the next meeting.
- o Dr. Behrmann encouraged members to read By-laws for other needed changes

Dr. Abrams called attention to a proposed change in the current By-laws from the April 2009 meeting on page 3 (item 23) that the evening session is now a Public Comment, not Public Forum. Ms. Melodie Henderson moved to accept the change. Ms. Suzanne Bowers seconded and the committee voted to accept motion to strike item 23 from the Bi-Laws

Annual Report

Dr. Behrman stated that the Annual Report should be completed by the end of current meeting in order for it to go to the Board for presentation and review on October 1, 2009. Ms. Carletta Wilson mentioned that the current By-Laws state the Board will approve this report in July, not October. This should be changed in the By-Laws.

A copy of the draft report was given to members for review. Ms. Anne Fischer stated that the full committee needs to discuss future issues to be addressed in the report. Possible Issues: Bullying and Disability Harassment, Restraint and Seclusion, Autism – current issues and licensing, Regulatory Process, Post-Secondary Transition, drop out, etc., Assessment Issues - Overuse of VGLA, Underuse of VSEP, New Modified Assessment, continued monitoring of VAIM Center, Staffing Ratios, State’s current requirements of teacher certification for teacher licensure in special education

Presentations

Restraint and Seclusion Sample Training Elements

Mr. Mike Williams, Teacher, Minnick Education Center, Wytheville Campus

Ms. Jennifer O’Berry-Ham introduced Mr. Mike Williams. He discussed issues related to physical restraint and what is involved as caregivers interact with students. There are several types and techniques of physical restraint with several companies offering training programs. Mr. Williams told members a little about his background and his training in the use of MANDT which is a system that teaches skills and strategies for de-escalating, resolving, and preventing conflict, aggression and violence between people. Mr. Williams, with the help of Ms. Robin Peeler, demonstrated some of the procedures used.

Restraint and Seclusion Policy Study Update

Dr. Judy Douglas, Virginia Department of Education

Dr. Judy Douglas presented an overview of her office’s report on physical restraint and seclusion that had been mailed to the SSEAC members. The report supplemented her office’s April report to the SSEAC on this subject. The document summarizes national studies and the May 2009 congressional hearing on the use of restraint and seclusion. Copies of an additional report were distributed to the SSEAC members, “Consideration for Seclusion and Restraint Use in School-wide Positive Behavioral Supports”, issued by the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Special Education Programs Center on Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports. Dr. Douglas noted

that at this point in time, it appears that this issue may be addressed through further legislation, including the reauthorizations of the NCLB and IDEA.

It was noted that the SSEAC's Executive Committee had not yet met with Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) representatives to dialogue on the issuance of a policy on restraint and seclusion. Ms. Melodie Henderson reported that the Virginia Educational Association of which she is a member, voted to request the Virginia Board of Education require every Virginia school division train special education staff in recognized high quality programs that emphasize de-escalation techniques to ensure the safety of students and staff.

Ms. Anne Fischer moved that the SSEAC draft a memo to Superintendent of Public Instruction, requesting that Dr. Patricia Wright to address ongoing concerns regarding restraint and seclusion. The memo would ask her to re-issue the February 2006 Superintendent's Memorandum on VDOE's guidance document on the use of physical restraint and seclusion in Virginia's public schools, with updated information from VDOE's April and July 2009 reports to the SSEAC on the subject, and requiring that the school divisions that do not have policies and procedures and training on the use of restraint and seclusion, revisit the issue. The motion was seconded by Ms. Carletta Wilson and approved.

Break

Subcommittees

Subcommittees met.

Public Comment

Sue Sargeant - ARC of Rappahannock

Issues included Seclusion and Restraint – would like to mandate installation of security cameras in all special education classrooms; non-verbal students cannot go home and tell mom; bullying can be peer to peer

Additional concerns regarding DD age change to 6 – bullying to assign label, prepare staff and parents better and train on stigma labels; LEAs that misinterpret regulations and cut out DD teachers and convert them to RTi specialists

Letter sent in from Christina Russell

Seeking reimbursement for initial evaluation and therapy, as well as placement at Keystone

Subcommittees

Subcommittees reconvened to review the Annual Report.

Lunch

The Assistant Superintendent's Report was moved to Friday. Mr. Doug Cox reported that the Board of Education had approved appointments and reappointments to the SSEAC at their morning meeting. The appointments include:

Region I parent: Carletta Wilson, Richmond (reappointment)
Teacher: Melodie Henderson, Chesterfield (reappointment)
Region II parent: Sandra Hermann, VA Beach
Region III parent: Lori Jackson, Mathews
Region VI parent: Jackie Myal, Pulaski
Region VIII parent: Bernadette Jones, Amelia

Special Education National View

Nancy Reder, Esq., Deputy Executive Director/Governmental Relations NASDSE

Mr. Doug Cox welcomed Ms. Nancy Reder from the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE). She introduced herself and provided a national view of some of the hot topics in education. She discussed several issues including:

- ❖ American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA)
- ❖ Strengthening/reauthorizing ESEA
- ❖ FY 10 appropriations
- ❖ Seclusion/restraint
- ❖ IDEA issues
- ❖ Universal Design for Learning
- ❖ Autism
- ❖ President's new community college initiative

Mr. Doug Cox presented a certificate of appreciation to Ms. Anne Fischer for her years of service as a member of the SSEAC and for her role as chairperson of the committee. He thanked her for her service on behalf of Virginia's children with disabilities.

Response to Intervention Update (RtI)

Ms. Susan Trulove, Dr. Cindy Cave, Virginia Department of Education

Dr. Cynthia A. Cave and Ms. Susan Trulove provided an update on RtI. They talked about several topics including:

- ❖ Statewide RtI Institutes 2007-2008 in Roanoke, Newport News, and Fredericksburg
- ❖ Selection of 15 pilot divisions
 - o Alleghany County Mountain View Elementary
 - o Augusta County Beverly Manor Elementary
 - o Bath County Valley Elementary
 - o Gloucester County Petsworth Elementary
 - o Loudoun County John Tolbert Elementary
 - o Manassas Park Cougar Elementary

- o Martinsville City Albert Harris Elementary
- o Mecklenburg County Chase City Elementary
- o Northampton County Occohannock Elementary
- o Portsmouth City Simonsdale Elementary
- o Prince Edward County Prince Edward Elementary
- o Prince William County Mary Williams Elementary
- o Pulaski County Pulaski Elementary
- o Shenandoah County Sandy Hook Elementary
- o Smyth County Marion Primary
- ❖ Criteria for selection
 - o Initial training session for one week - July 2008
 - o Monthly training sessions during October 2008 - June 2009 with topics including:
 - Foundations of RtI
 - Problem Solving Model vs. Standard Protocol
 - Formative Evaluation
 - From Theory to Practice- A Behavioral and an Academic Case Study
 - Providing a Framework Around Which Implementation of RtI can be Built
 - Quality Instruction – What Does it Look Like?
 - Universal Screening and CBMs
 - Team Self-Assessment – Monitoring Progress Towards our Goals
 - Progress Monitoring
 - Building a Context for Excellence to Improve Results for all Students
 - o All training sessions are listed on RtI Web site
- ❖ Monographs as resource to Virginia's RtI guidance document
 - o Universal Screening
 - o Standard Protocol vs. Problem Solving Model
 - o Special Education FAQs
- ❖ Summer 2009 Statewide RtI institutes
 - o July 9-10, 2009 - Roanoke, VA
 - o July 16-17, 2009

Break

State Personnel Development Grant: Literacy in Secondary Schools Update

Dr. Tom Manthey, Virginia Department of Education

Dr. Tom Manthey, the Virginia Personnel Development Grant Coordinator, briefly described the five levels of the Content Literacy Continuum (CLC) and the activities of the Virginia Content Literacy Continuum Project. The project established four statewide CLC demonstration secondary schools in Hanover and Botetourt County. In addition, the project selected four regional CLC demonstration secondary schools in Culpeper and King William Counties. In the coming year, another eight regional demonstration schools will be chosen to achieve the goal of the project to establishing a CLC demonstration middle school and high school in each of the eight superintendant regions. Promising student outcome data from the statewide demonstration sites were presented in

the presentation. The release by the Southern Regional Education Board of A Critical Mission: Making Adolescent Reading an Immediate Priority in SREB States and an article in the ASHA Leader entitled Response-to-Intervention: Speech Language Pathologists as Linchpins in Secondary Schools accelerates activities of the CLC program in Virginia and brings added attention to the innovative practices in adolescent literacy and speech language pathology that emerges from the CLC project.

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Reports

Personnel

Ms. Jennifer O'Berry-Ham reported that the Personnel Subcommittee discussed Chapter 202 [H2224] Approved March 27, 2009 by the General Assembly, which states that the "Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure, in consultation with the Department of the Blind and Visually Impaired shall make recommendations to the Board of Education and the Chairman of the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education and Health regarding certification of Braille instructors." The IDEA mandate states that Braille instruction should be provided to students with visual impairments unless the IEP team determines, after an evaluation, that Braille instruction is not appropriate for that student. Concerns were raised regarding teacher preparation in Braille instruction, maintenance of skills for Braille instruction, and the evaluation instruments used to make determinations.

This subcommittee was asked to make recommendations regarding what this certification may look like for both pre-service and in-service teachers. These recommendations will be added to the list of recommendations made by the ABTEL subcommittee. In lieu of an additional assessment for certification in Braille, the sub-committee reviewed the current licensure requirements for a teacher of Visual Impairments in VA. In addition to other requirements, these include two required Braille courses. The first is a Foundation of Braille, and the second is an advanced Braille course. These courses have been deemed appropriate for Braille instruction preparation. The subcommittee made a recommendation that these two courses may serve as the certification requirement for pre-service teachers. For in-service teachers only having a foundations course, this may mean that they would need to take the advanced course requirement. Grant options or other payment options should be considered so that this course would be at no cost to teachers. Additionally, it was recommended that at the time of teacher recertification, an on-line course/training option should be considered as a requirement to train and maintain skills in the use of Braille.

Annual Report

The subcommittee made the following recommendations for future issues to be added to the Annual Report:

- ❖ Under the heading of teacher licensure, the inclusion of Braille certification, as well as the number of current provisional special education licenses awarded, and continued low numbers of licensed special educators
- ❖ Under the heading of assessment issues, the inclusion of VAAP, as well as overuse of VGLA and being given the necessary materials for these assessments in a timely manner

Update on Approved teacher Licensure Programs

- ❖ Currently, 58 out of 60 special education teacher licensure programs have been approved that will meet the new teacher licensure requirements including adapted and general curriculum.

Response to Intervention (RtI)

Ms. Susan Trulove provided an update on what has been happening with RtI since the April SSEAC meeting. She also talked about the two statewide RtI institutes for all school divisions in the state that met in July 2009 in Roanoke and Williamsburg.

Constituency

Dr. Tamara Temoney reported that the Constituency subcommittee recognizes the various concerns addressed when changing the Informal Public Forum to a Formal Public Comment period however the subcommittee would like to ensure we revisit this issue at the April 2010 meeting. This request is based on perceived desirability of parental involvement, travel restraints on parents and comment time limits with no feedback from committee members.

The subcommittee recommends the SSEAC Chair send a letter or memo to LEA's noting this change is temporary but will be revisited at the April 2010 meeting. The subcommittee would also recommend the Chair include the reason why the SSEAC is unable to travel to the different localities and that this decision may be revisited at a later date.

The subcommittee recommends that all SSEAC Representatives utilize the flyer announcing the quarterly meetings and take advantage of their networking list to communicate with their constituency groups.

The Constituency subcommittee would like the SSEAC to work on a creating a policy to fill positions in the interim if a member resigns or is unable to complete a term.

Friday, July 24

SSEAC Members					
	Present	Absent		Present	Absent
Eva Aikens	x		Fran Goforth	x	
Judy Averill	x		Melodie Henderson	x	
Mike Behrmann	x		Mona Holmes		x
Suzanne Bowers	x		Jacqueline Nelson		x
Bob Chappell	x		Jennifer O'Berry-Ham	x	
Mary Ann Discenza	x		Peter Squire		x
Christina Draper		x	Tamara Temoney		x
Anne Fischer	x		Carletta Wilson	x	

Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Staff							
Doug Cox	x	Marianne Moore	x	Gloria Dalton	x	Paul Raskopf	x
Cathy Pomfrey	x	Pat Abrams	x	Judy Douglas	x	Melissa Smith	x

Guests					
Kathy Maybee (PEATC)	x	Samantha Vanterpool (OAG)	x	Elizabeth Getzel (VCU)	Cheryl Ward - Independence Center

Call to Order

Dr. Mike Behrmann called the meeting to order.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Mr. Doug Cox provided updates on several issues including.

- ❖ *Response to Intervention* – He continues to be very pleased with state leadership. He mentioned two institutes that have been held with top people from around the country and noted there has been a very good response from school divisions.
- ❖ *Instructional Support and Related Services* - A new office has been created at VDOE under the leadership of Mr. John Eisenberg. The primary mission is to provide leadership to children with low incidence disabilities, children who need a significant amount of support.
- ❖ *Assistive Technology Vendor Fair* – VDOE sponsored an assistive technology vendors' fair. Vendors who sell assistive technology were invited. People spent the day talking with vendors and finding out what is being offered.
- ❖ *Autism Position* – He reviewed the JLARC study on Autism and the VDOE response to the study. There will be the addition of a VDOE staff person who will primarily be involved

with services for students with Autism.

- ❖ *Training on Regulations* – Trainings will not be scheduled by the state, but the state will conduct trainings by request. Guidance documents will be provided, as well as all other documents that will need to be revised to meet the current regulations.
- ❖ *Private School Regulations* - New Private Day and Residential Regulations should be completed by September or October, and then will be opened for public comment.
- ❖ *Upcoming studies and projects* being conducted by DOE will include a review of students with ED in collaboration with ODU, additional options (other than ASL) for students with hearing and auditory issues – oral approach, the continued high number of students with disabilities that continue to be suspended, assessment issues – over/underuse of VGLA, new 2% VMAST assessment.
- ❖ *National Summit on H1N1* – He talked about issues with H1N1 and his attendance at the recent National Summit.
- ❖ *OSEP Verification Visit* - The Office of Federal Monitoring will be conducting a review during the October at the time of the SSEAC meeting.

Presentations

State Performance Plan – Annual Performance Report Data Update: Secondary Transition and Post Secondary Outcomes

Ms. Marianne Moore – VDOE and Dr. Elizabeth E. Getzel, VCU-RRTC

Ms. Marianne Moore and Dr. Liz Getzel summarized Indicators 13 and 14. They reviewed the current indicators and provided an overview of the proposed changes and definitions for each. They also supplied a list of Virginia and National resources.

- ❖ *New Survey Tool for Indicator # 13*
 - Virginia Transition Requirements Checklist
 - Online; Password Protected
 - Online Tutorial
 - 1:1 consultation via phone
 - Limited face to face PD
 - Self Assessment
 - IEPs can be amended and data re-entered
 - Required data is extracted for the Annual Performance Report
- ❖ *NEW Indicator # 14 definitions*
 - “Higher Education”
 - A student who is enrolled in a 2 or 4-year degreed program provided by community or technical college (2 year) and/or college/university (4 or more year program)
 - “Enrolled”
 - The person must be enrolled for at least one term.
 - “Other”
 - Compensatory education programs

- o High school completion document or certificate classes (e.g., Adult Basic Education, General Education Development (GED))
- o Short-term education or employment training program (e.g., Workforce Investment Act (WIA))
- o Job Corps
- o Vocational technical school which is less than a two year program
- o Adult education
- o Workforce development
- “At least 90 days “
 - o 90 cumulative days at any time in the year since leaving high school

Dr. Mike Behrmann had to leave and Ms. Suzanne Bowers, vice-chair chaired the meeting.

Reports begun on Thursday and finished on Friday

Constituency Reports	
Name	Report
Eva Aikens	No constituency report, but wanted to ask for assistance in building her constituency, and membership in local SEAC meetings
Judy Averill	
Mike Behrmann	Since it is summer, the higher education community is mostly on break. However, Pat Aman has reported that 58 of 60 IHEs have their new programs approved and the other two programs are near approval. There will be 60 IHEs with state approved programs in Virginia. The consortia programs in the state also have continued to collaborate productively. The VI program is still seeking a full time faculty member for next year. The personnel committee reviewed grant applications for distance education programs for the teachers of students with disabilities in the general curriculum and awards were given to GMU (regions 4,5,6,& 7) and ODU (regions 1,2,3 & 8). The two universities are collaborating in marketing and tuition (same at both sites). The programs are different so students who enter one will not be able to move to the other program since the course content organization and delivery is significantly different. ODU is continuing an ongoing program and Mason is starting up this summer.
Suzanne Bowers	1. Clarke County is building a new high school 2. Fairfax County – The Pyramid Resource Specialist (PRS) position is now called the Procedural Support Liaison (PSL). PSLs now serve pyramids from preschool to high school as opposed to specializing in elementary or secondary. That means that many PRS/PSLs have changed. “See the Fairfax County website for a complete directory of the PSLs by pyramid. In addition, if you are looking for a list of staff, here’s a link to the new directory: http://www.fcps.edu/dss/directory.htm . 3. Loudoun County – The Loudoun County School Board is seeking to purchase land for an elementary school, middle school, and high school. 4. Prince William County – The Parent Resource Center continues to have events going on throughout the summer (information in their newsletter) http://pwcs.ihspaceeast.schoolfusion.us/modules/groups/homepagefiles/cms/494229/File/Temp%20Files/PRC%20Special%20Focus0609.pdf

Constituency Reports

Name	Report
Bob Chappell	Suggested that the department consider more flexibility on licensing of Special Education teachers: I am hopeful that the department will consider allowing teachers who hold a Virginia license and teaching endorsement to take the PRAXIS in Special Education as an alternative to taking large numbers of college courses. I recognize the importance of persons learning the content presented in many college courses especially that in courses – to name just a few – for teachers of autistic and severely disabled children. However, I believe the flexibility I suggest will result in fewer Special Education teachers discontinuing the endorsement process. The department could easily get data on the number of teachers who start with conditional licenses yet don't complete the coursework. I suspect the attrition rate is high. Ultimately high turnover by Special Educators is not good for disabled kids. I do believe that Virginia School Superintendents would endorse a change that provides more flexibility.
Mary Ann Discenza	
Christina Draper	Absent
Anne Fischer	2 school divisions are having a regional meeting to talk about combining SEAC program; key issues dropout – post school outcome dismal for several school divisions
Fran Goforth	5. The local directors of special education will continue to make revisions to their documents, policies, and procedures because the state special education regulations have been finalized. 6. We continue to have difficulty finding special education teachers, occupational therapists, speech/language pathologists, and physical therapists. 7. The Fall VCASE meeting will be held in Charlottesville on October 14th.
Melodie Henderson	1. At the most recent representative assembly of the Virginia Education Association (VEA) the following new business item was put forth and adopted by the delegation: - o TRAINING FOR THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND STAFF – That the VEA shall request that the State Board of Education mandate that all LEAs (Local Association Agency) train special education staff in recognized high quality programs that emphasize de-escalation techniques to ensure the safety of students and staff. 2. Several teachers around the state feel challenged to provide adequate services to their students when they are required to provide various assessments i.e., SOL prep, VGLA and VAAP simultaneously in multiple content areas to multiple students with different skill abilities and disabilities. Often, there is not a paraprofessional or other teacher available to assist for periods of time during instruction depending on the then current student/teacher ration requirements. Therefore, they feel that instruction for these students is being compromised.
Mona Holmes	Absent
Jacqueline Nelson	Absent
Jennifer O'Berry Ham	
Peter Squire	Absent
Tamara Temoney	

Constituency Reports	
Name	Report
Carletta Wilson	
Kathy Maybee (PEATC)	1. PEATC is pleased to announce that we have been awarded another 5-year grant to continue as the Parent Training and Information (PTI) Center for the Commonwealth! As the PTI, PEATC has a mission is <i>building positive futures for children with disabilities by working collaboratively with families, schools and professionals to improve opportunities for success in school and community life. Our special focus is children with disabilities.</i> 2. As Virginia's parent training and information center, some of our responsibilities lie in training and educating parents and professionals who call us for assistance and providing support and resources to parents. We are here to empower parents of children and youth with disabilities in their role as parents, decision makers and advocates for their children and to promote partnerships among parents and professionals. 3. On June 17, 2009, we held a PEATC coffee for educational consultants, attorneys, tutors and PEATC staff. The trends in special education that were identified include: - o Writing IEP goals towards standards, not what the child needs - o Leveling students with ADHD in middle and high school - o Accommodations in Middle and High School - o OT/Speech services—eligibility and continued services - o Need self-advocacy goals in IEP on strategies concerning bullying - o Laying off social workers which overloads counselors and principals 4. We encouraged the attendees to offer workshops, in their area of expertise, for PEATC parents and staff. 5. PEATC is also excited to announce the opportunity this summer for parents to experience the Parents as Collaborative Leaders training. It will be held <u>August 26-28 in Lynchburg, Virginia</u>. The training will begin with lunch at 12 noon on Wednesday and end at 1 pm on Friday. This is an all inclusive training with meals, books and materials free to accepted applicants. Mileage reimbursement is available as well. Additional information and the application can be found on our website at www.peatc.org.

Public Comment Review from Thursday a.m. and Thursday p.m.

1. Sue Sargeant – ARC of Rappahannock

- o Issues included Seclusion and Restraint – would like to mandate installation of security cameras in all special education classrooms; non-verbal students cannot go home and tell mom; bullying can be peer to peer
- o Additional concerns regarding DD age change to 6 – bullying to assign label, prepare staff and parents better and train on stigma labels; LEAs that misinterpret regulations and cut out DD teachers and convert them to RtI specialists

*** *VDOE will respond in a letter to Ms. Sargeant***

- 2. Letter sent in from Christina Russell, Williamsburg, James City County Public Schools**
- o Seeking reimbursement for initial evaluation and 6 months educational therapy, as well as placement or services at Keystone

*** *VDOE will follow-up with the school division***

3. Maria Nellie Florez, Falls Church

- o Son with autism 16 years old
- o Key to working with these children is to help parents; wants a grant for parents to be trained

*** *There is a group who is currently producing Autism guidelines. VDOE will follow-up with a letter***

4. Patricia Ojeda – information specialist at PEATC

- o interpreter for two parents in attendance
- o Thanked the SSEAC; wanted to call attention to these parents and how they are empowered

5. Fannie Lopez (used interpreter)

- o 12 year old with CP from Falls Church; been helped by an advocate
- o Wants to be informed more about her child's disability
- o Thanks for the opportunity to speak
- o Many behavioral issues and needs help dealing with it
- o Would like more training not only at school but home
- o Has gone to FAPT and would like in-home services and more information

*** *VDOE will follow-up with a letter***

6. Anne Fischer, Suffolk

- o Investigate procuring funds to print manuals;
- o Available now only by request,

*** *Mr. Doug Cox stated that he will take another look at the budget and understands the necessity of these. VDOE will provide bound copies to anyone by request. If it is feasible to provide these, it will be after the 6 month revision***

Future Meeting Agenda Discussion

- Executive Team would like for the Constituency Committee to look into additional options to expand the range of coverage to constituencies during SSEAC meetings (i.e. – use of technology, webcasting, etc.) This will be discussed in subcommittee meeting in October

- Assessment: Data on VGLA and VSEP, and VAAP; Audits on misuse of SOL tests/changing student schedules (Thursday)
- New regulations – training will need to be on the Friday of the next meeting
- JLARC Report on Autism (Thursday)
- Standing data item – will not be in October, and report will be made in February

Other Business Items

Senate Joint Resolution on Disabilities Leadership Forum – Ms. Anne Fischer asked if VDOE will be participating. Mr. Doug Cox confirmed that they would be doing so. She asked about having these young people to present on what they have been doing in October.

Ms. Suzanne Bowers adjourned the meeting in Dr. Behrmann's absence.

Future Meetings

October 15-16, 2009

February 11-12, 2010

April 15-16, 2010

July 15-16, 2010