

The Arc Michigan Education Committee
March 4, 2009

Present: Maggie Kolk, Michelle Miller, Michelle Driscoll, Darlene Heard-Thomas, Kathlyn Parker, Sandra McClennen

Staff: Dohn Hoyle

The minutes of the February 4th meeting were approved as corrected.

SEAC Report:

- There is a new office of Early Childhood Education at the federal level. There is a hope that funding will increase.
- The new acronym is ARRA – American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus package). Education monies must be tracked separately, used for capacity building, systems change, extended professional development. Districts are supposed to track spending on their websites for transparency, and already expended monies cannot be supplanted by this. These monies are coming through Title I and IDEA. There is additional money through a stabilization fund which can be used more broadly.
- MEAP ACCESS has been piloted. Also, it has been decided that a student may take different level tests in different subject areas.
- A presentation on Great Start was made. It included both an overview and a report on how it works in Oakland Schools. Go to these websites:

www.greatstartforkids-oakland.org

www.oakland.k12.us/greatparents

www.ecic4kids.org

Work is progressing on removing barriers to flexibility in delivery systems.

- SEAC is working on a Personal Curriculum Guidance Document. Everyone is in agreement that this is greatly needed for mutual understanding.
- EDP (Educational Development Plan) is created for each student in 7th or 8th grade. It is supposed to tie in to the Michigan Merit System. But in the accreditation system, there is no mention of whether a district is in fact using it as intended.

Committee work before next meeting:

1. Kathlyn sent lists of websites that address universal design for education and that address literacy. Sandi added a few sites. Committee members will review the sites on both lists and approve, add or reject sites. When our work is completed, the lists will be posted on The Arc Michigan website under Education Committee.
2. To continue work on our UDL position paper, each member will identify main ideas that need to be part of this paper, using the materials and websites we have identified.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 1, 3:30 – 5:30, at The Arc Michigan office.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi McClennen