



ESE Community Task Force Meeting
February 23, 2015

Submitted by Sonja Clay, Director, ESE

The Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Task Force Planning Committee met on February 23, 2015, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Arthur Ashe Jr. Campus located at 1701 NW 23 Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL. 33311.

Stacey Hoaglund, Task Force Chair, provided the welcome, and reviewed the agenda.

Previous meeting Agenda Item: Matriculation

Task Force member Alexai Perez, shared that she received a strong response from Dr. Howard, Director of School Psychology who is associated with Project Achieve. She stated that he was willing to consult with additional information to include support facilitation job description.

Agenda Item: Curriculum

Task Force members shared concern about support facilitation and staff shared that the ESE and Support Services Division is in the midst of redesigning our support facilitator training to include modules for administrators, general education and ESE teachers, and support staff.

Andrea Ciotti, Curriculum Supervisor, shared information relating to access to alternate/specialized curriculum which included training and use of Ablenet with a focus on STEM.

Agenda Item: Caseloads (VE/SLP)

Task Force members discussed their concern regarding caseloads of ESE teachers and the various levels of support that they may provide (collaboration, consultation, and direct services); and proposed caseloads for the district to consider.

Task Force members discussed recommending caseloads for support facilitators to be 18 for elementary schools; 22 for middle schools; and 25 for high schools.

Sonja Clay, Director, presented speech/language pathologists (SLPs) caseload data, to include national averages; hiring challenges this and other districts face; and what the district is doing to recruit SLPs, such as working with colleges and universities and working with Talent Development to attract SLPs from other states.

Agenda Item: Assistive Technology (AT) and Behavior (Supervisor Positions)

Gwen Lipscomb, FDLRS Coordinator, shared AT caseloads, team needs, and answered questions presented by Task Force members.

Task Force member Ellie Schrot, recommended that the district hire a program specialist instead of supervisor.

Agenda Item: Digital 5 Initiative

This is not addressed in the Evergreen report but staff responded as noted below.

Brian Kingsley, Acting Chief Academics Officer, Brian Norris addressed questions pose by Task Force members and shared that the ESE and Support Services Division attends all Digital 5 meetings.

Agenda Item: Response to Intervention (RtI) for Learning Disabilities

This item was carried over from the January 26,2015 meeting as Agenda Item ESE Eligibility

Mary Claire Mucenic, Psychological Services Coordinator, and Les Baker, Psychologist, explained the RtI process for LD and answered questions posed by Task Force members. It was noted that another department - Student Support Initiatives; handles all RtI initiatives and that the Task Force's concerns would be shared with district's RtI leadership team.

A recommendation was made that Student Support Initiatives Division provide more parent training on the RtI process.

Additional Recommendations discussed by Task Force members

- Recommendation for behavior technicians; 12 behavior technicians
- One (1) teacher of behavior support per middle school
- One (1) behavior supervisor
- Research opportunity to consult with Dr. Howard M. Knoff, Director, Project Achieve

The Task Force identified agenda items for the next meeting date, which is March 16, 2015, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Arthur Ashe Jr. Campus located at 1701 NW 23 Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL. 33311.

The meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.