

GISD SECAC MEETING  
April 26, 2005

I. Attendees:

Karen Baker - Special Education Teacher, Frost Elementary  
Stephanie Blanck - Special Education Director  
Paula Bradley - Parent/ GISD staff member  
Regina Gilchriest - Assistant Special Ed. Director  
Libby Huntington - Parent/ GISD staff member  
Kristin Gonzalez - Parent  
Dawn Jennings - Advisory Council President - Parent  
Rita Morgan - Parent  
Joy Sansom - Parent  
William Sattler - Community Representative, GISD School Board Trustee  
Nominee, Place 5  
Joanne Weaver - Parent

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Place: GISD Administration Building, 602 Lakeway Dr, Georgetown

Detailed Summary of Meeting:

II. Review of minutes:

Minutes from February & March were reviewed and accepted by the committee.

III. Review of April Forum:

18 people attended the forum. Breakout sessions included:  
ADD/ADHD and Bipolar session  
Social stories session  
Counselor presented a session. Not many people attended, but the discussion was excellent.  
Mr. Sattler attended the social stories session and found it very interesting.

A brief discussion was held about Transition Meetings for parents. The upcoming May Forum transition meeting is open to anyone who wants to attend. A suggestion was made to have the transition fair earlier. There will be another transition fair in the fall. There will be an overview of services such as MHMR, DARS, SSI, VAC, CBI, CBVI, graduation, and guardianship. Will look at speakers from organizations to come. Focus will be where parents show the most interest. Discussion included a future transition fair in March for all relevant grades and a question list for parents attending.

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IV. Discussion of May Forum:

Date set for May 12th.

This will be the final Sibling Workshop. Dawn encouraged parents who have siblings to attend. Christine is doing an excellent job. A doctor will be coming to talk about medications- what's available and what is new.

Dr. Muse will not be available. A psychiatrist from Georgetown Community Clinic will be coming instead.

Forum discussions were paused briefly while introductions were made. A transition meeting will also be held at the forum. Information will include the following topics:

Self-advocacy and self-determination

high school services- vocational vs. educational

Regina will go over what is new and what is coming.

(Letters went out to parents who have students in CBI or in the 18-22 age program. Letters were also sent to parents of students in the 8th grade.)

May 10th there will be a meeting from 4:15 to 5:15 to discuss next year's schedule, changing campus site, having more parents attend via PTA. Get topic ideas to Dawn prior to May 10th. Dawn suggested asking Mr. Lee to do the first meeting again this year. This will be for discussion on the 10th.

V. After school care update:

No additional updates. Another parent expressed interest. Dawn is still looking at other options such as other groups in Georgetown.

VI. Summer Newsletter:

Next newsletter will be in May, sometime next week. Planning for a May 6-9th mailing date. Anything to go in this newsletter, get to Dawn. Information will include: ROCK, softball, and transitions. There was a brief discussion of having the newsletter on the web site with links.

VII. CBVI:

Pizza and soda will be provided to CBI students for efforts in folding the newsletters for the last two years. There will also be a thank you note.

VIII. Parent to Parent Conference:

Conference date: July 22- 24

Location: Mary Hardin-Baylor, free with request for \$15.00 donation.

The conference is expected to have good speakers.

IX. ARC Handout:

30 page resource list put together by Rob Dyer.

Suggestion was made to put on web site as an attachment.

Discussed goal for a special ed. web site.

X. Review proposed SECAC By-law and Mission Statement:

By-laws were discussed. Recommended changing terminology from children to students. Any other comments should be forwarded to Kristin Gonzalez @ Kmgonzalez@ATT.net by the last day of school.

"Excellence in special education through the united voices of parents, staff, and community" was a proposed mission statement. Two other mission statements were read, the current mission statement and another mission statement with the proposed by-laws. The following discussions/suggestions occur:

the current mission statement is too long and lengthy, certain items to be included were education and outreach, a statement that will reflect a safe place for parents to come, a statement only 20 words. Forward other suggestions to Kristin Gonzalez.

XI. Review/discuss 4/19/05 Life skills Forum:

2 parents with life skills students attended; however they were not students at the elementary level. Joy Samson provided committee with information on the forum. At the forum, Ms. Lang expressed concern that no parents were there. She requested her staff member, Autumn, to call parents of Lifeskills students at Williams. The consensus for parents was that if it meant a quality education for their children they were comfortable with clustering life skills classes. Discussion of other school districts occurred. We are not the only school district looking at clustering life skills classes. The staff feels this is a good thing to do. Pros and cons of clustering were discussed. The committee voted on 3 items:

- 1.) yes or no to clustering.
- 2.) If yes, then what year 05-06 or 06-07.
- 3.) How to notify parents.

A recommendation was made to cluster life skills classes at the elementary level. A second was given, followed by a discussion. The committee voted 6-0 to recommend for clustering for the elementary life skills classes.

A recommendation was made to make clustering effective the 06-07 school year. A second was given, followed by a discussion. Pros and cons were discussed. Disadvantages included some students would have to transition twice, staff would be ready to implement by next year, current modifications are in place now so it can be done without waiting for physical modifications at the schools. Advantages for waiting included more time for families to prepare. The second was withdrawn.

A recommendation was made to the committee for clustering to begin the 05-06 school year with a timeline of May 16, 2005 to notify families with location of life skill classes and placement. A second was given, and a vote of 6-0 taken.

A recommendation was made for a second meeting, after May 16, 2005, to answer parent's questions and concerns. A second was given, and a vote of 5-1 was taken.

Mr. Sattler assisted the committee with voting procedures.

XII. Other Items: Not discussed.