

The mission of the Utah Paraprofessional Consortium is to promote training and support for paraprofessionals leading to improved outcomes for children, youth and families.

**Paraprofessional Consortium
February 13th, 2006
Utah State Office of Education
MINUTES**

This meeting was broadcasted over EDNET with Gail Johnson as the moderator. The sites included: Michele Friz at DATC, Linda Alsop, USU and Larry Abplanalp, Duchesne School District.

Welcome

Peggy Dooling-Baker welcomed everyone and consortium members introduced themselves. Peggy highlighted today's agenda.

Attendance

Gail Johnson, Peggy Dooling-Baker Beth Olsen, Pat Fender, Deanna Avis, Marilyn Likins, Linda Aslop, Peggy Fratto, Bruce Schroeder, Elizabeth Jensen, Diane Fillmore, Michele Friz, Linda Alsop, Larry Abplanalp, Mary Baldwin.

Legislative Resolution Update – Pat Fender

“Joint Resolution Raising Public Awareness of Vital Role of Paraprofessionals” Chief Sponsor was Ronda Rudd Menlove. Pat stated that this joint resolution of the Utah Legislature urges the citizens of Utah to increase their awareness of the contributions paraeducators make in educating children in public schools. Pat stated that the resolution passed 10 for and 1 against in the Education Committee. It will go to the Senate floor and Pat sees no problem. The Resolution also describes roles that paraeducators play and defines the link between paraeducators and the teacher and the vital role the paraeducators plays.

Ronda Rudd Menlove also presented this information at the Paraeducator Conference.

State Board Update: Supporting Competencies – Gail Johnson

The Core Competencies were presented to the USOE Board Members on February 3, 2006. The original four Standards and Core Competencies were approved in October, 2003. The purpose of this review by the State Board Education Committee was to make the Board aware of the supporting competencies and the necessity for them. Michele Friz, Davis Applied Technology College and Beth Olsen, Salt Lake Community College discussed the importance of the supporting competencies to program development. The Board was very supportive.

In terms of next steps there is need to focus on articulation of all programs, the recruitment of paraeducators and the resources available to them if they choose to go back to college/university. The diverse population among the teachers is very minimal but schools have become very diverse. Marilyn will be attending a “Think Tank” meeting in Arlington, Virginia the first week of March. The discussion will be about teacher shortages and how paraeducators can help to address this nationwide crisis. She will report back at the next meeting.

Next Step

Concerning the Supporting competencies, have we met our goal and now need to move onto developing articulation agreements. A committee to look at the next steps and analyze agreements that are already in place must include universities, colleges and DATC. Marilyn and Michele Friz will co-chair the committee. Gail Johnson, Beth Olsen and Linda Alsop will be on the committee to get the ball rolling. Anyone interested that did not attend consortium please contact Michele Friz or Marilyn Likins.

The ParaGraph Update

Monies have been submitted for the ParaGraph. A newsletter should be coming out shortly.

Training Program Update

- Salt Lake Community College – Beth Olsen stated that the two classes passed and is now working on getting in on-line for the fall. Student will need 22 credit hours to get a certificate. Lots of ideas being generated and one is getting involved at the high school level.
- USU – Linda Alsop state that her grant continues to press forward in establishing an on line training program for intervenors. 4 sites have been identified. Linda also stated that the intervenors competencies align with the Utah competencies, i.e., what training

- is required, who is the intervener accountable to? Who is their supervisor, etc.
- Davis Applied Technology College – Michelle Friz stated that she send out 1500 letters to paraeducators offering a tuition wavier for 2 months at DATC. The letters were sent to Davis, Weber and Ogden area. The letters were a great success. She stated that evening enrollment is up.

Getting Information Out to Paraeducators and Districts

Paraeducators need to know about the support they are receiving from the USOE and the Legislature. They need to know that support is available. We need to let our senators know, put it on the web-site, put the information in the Utah PARAGraph to increase awareness and acknowledgement of paraeducators. Larry Abplanalp stated a good way to communicate is at SARS the last week of March. Other ways to disseminate include: send the information to all school districts, email paraeducators directly, have it acknowledged in district newsletters, send information to district school board members.

Pat Fender will send a thank you note to representative and senators from the Para Consortium.

Other

Gail Johnson stated that there is additional money for paraeducator training. Anyone interested in training needs to contact Gail. The monies expire in October.

Consortium Meeting dates for the 2006 School Year:

March 24th, 2006 – 1:00-3:00 p.m. at Jones Center

May 4th, 2006 – 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at DATC

Utah Paraeducator Conference Ogden Eccles Conference Center--November 10-11th, 2006.

A Call for Papers will be posted on the website www.utahparas.org soon and will be disseminated from the UPDC 801 272-3431.