

Utah Paraprofessional Consortium

Minutes for December 8, 2010

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

In attendance: Kit Giddings (UPDC), Marilyn Likins (USU), Diana Fillmore, , Rebecca Farnsworth (Clear Horizon Academy), Rob Averett (Granite School District), Jerry Purles (Granite School District), Melina Alexander (Weber State)

Future Meetings:

- Feb 2 Wednesday 1-3 pm
- May 3 Tuesday 1-3 pm

Paraeducator Websites (Marilyn Likins)

- www.utahparas.org
 - Content needs to be reviewed and updated
 - especially the Portfolio information
 - upcoming legislative changes may have an impact on website content
 - Someone is being hired to do the work on the website
- www.schools.utah.gov/sars/Paraeducators.aspx
 - A new hot link for paraeducators is now on the USOE Special Education screen.
 - A committee is looking at content for this site. Proposed content includes:
 - Utah Paraeducator Handbook
 - Information on Federal Legislation
 - Paraeducator Standards
 - Paraeducator to Teacher scholarship info
 - Financial supports for paraeducators who wish to become teachers
 - Paraeducator assessments
 - Professional development options for paraeducators
 - Information on the Utah Paraprofessional Consortium
 - Related links
 - etc.
 - Will likely link to www.utahparas.org.
 - Title I and ELL will be contacted by Rob Averett to see if they wish to be part of this project
- A sub-committee was formed to support the website development: Melina Alexander, Marilyn Likins and Rob Averett.

District and IHE partnerships (Paraeducator to Teacher Pathways) Update (Jerry Purles - Granite School District)

- Went to a conference in St Louis and presented information on the Utah state effort to support paraeducators who want to become teachers. This was presented from several different points of view (paraeducator, university, district, etc.)
- Jerry shared some of their goals for Granite District for the coming year:
 - Increasing communication with paraeducators via email (getting paraeducators email access through the district),
 - Developing a website for paraeducators (www.graniteschools.org/departments/teachinglearning/specialed/professionaldevelopment/Pages/ForthSpecialEducationParaeducators.aspx), and
 - Determining the number and location of paraeducators within the district
 - Assessing progress of paraeducators in teacher training programs
 - Conducting a new survey of paraeducators
- Davis , Weber & Ogden districts also involved in a similar process

Utah Paraeducator Conference

- Was held November 12-13, 2011 in Provo (Provo Marriott - downtown)
- Registration fees have been held at a low level for many years
- Participants:
 - Paraprofessionals: 480 preregistered with additional onsite registrations
 - Districts: 23
 - Charter Schools: 22