

Utah Paraprofessional Consortium

Minutes for September 22, 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: Nan Kirkpatrick (USEA), Marcia Larson (Granite School District), Kit Giddings (UPDC), Marilyn Likins (USU), Diana Fillmore, Jerry Purles (Granite School District), Betty Ashbaker (BYU), Rebecca Farnsworth (Clear Horizon Academy)

Future Meetings:

- Oct 27 Wednesday 1-3 pm
- Dec 8 Wednesday 1-3 pm

Discussion: We need to identify a Title I representative from one of the districts and encourage her/him to attend so that their interests can be addressed?

Paraeducator to Teacher Scholarship update (Marilyn Likins)

- Applications reviewed Aug 10, 100 applicants
- 9 newly awarded scholarships, 3 renewals
- Average award approximately \$2000+
- Names of recipients to be announced
 - Will be listed in the UtahPARAgraph
 - Shared at the Utah Paraeducator Conference
- With change of personnel at the USOE and other factors, word was very late in getting out to possible recipients. It was a "perfect storm".

District and IHE partnerships (Paraeducator to Teacher Pathways) Update (Marcia Larson & Jerry Purles-Granite)

- District and IHE partnerships were developed in conjunction with the Personnel Development Center (Phoebe Gillespie and Lisa Churchill, Chico State)
- Goal: Tap into the paraeducators as a pool for potential future teachers and develop pathways to make it possible for paraeducators to complete the education to earn their teaching credentials.

- Steps taken by Granite School District were reviewed including:
 - Night to honor paraeducators at which information was distributed about teacher training programs
 - Night with IHE representatives to review transcripts and answer questions
 - Checklist has developed to help paraeducators know how to apply for scholarships and to complete the application process
 - Developing cohorts of students enrolled in IHEs for mutual support
- Davis , Weber & Ogden districts also involved in a similar process
- Application for 2010-2011 has been submitted with the intent of continue extend the program

Utah Consortium Report (Kit Giddings)

- Many new Special Education directors
- Kit shared information on the Paraeducator Conference and the Utah Paraeducator Handbook

Utah Paraeducator Conference

- November 12-13, 2011 in Provo (Provo Marriott - downtown)
- Cost:
 - \$50 per paraeducator/teacher team (team = 1 teacher, 1 paraeducator)
 - \$35 per paraeducator
- Registration is available on the UPDC website:
 - <http://updc.org/registration/> or
 - http://data.updc.org/paraeducator/state_conference_2010/notice.html
- Awards for Outstanding Paraeducators will be Saturday at sit-down lunch

Statewide Paraeducator Training Options (Betty Ashbaker)

- The problem is not finding good training material. The challenge is finding what best fits our needs and the appropriate delivery method.
 - Online information is convenient and important, but lacks personal oversight and a way to know if a paraeducator understands and can apply the information appropriately.
 - Need to sift through existing information rather than to "reinvent the wheel"
 - Final result will likely be a hybrid of online and classroom type training.
- We need to look for funding and organize a subcommittee.
- Possibility of certification was also discussed.
- Need to look at Linda Alsop's program for training Interveners. It is an online program for individuals who are working with students with deaf/blind disabilities.