

Consortium Minutes
May 12, 2006

Welcome: **Mark Riding** welcomed the group to the final Consortium of this school year. All good educators should start with review and Mark did that. He reviewed the past Consortiums and what was covered. This consortium's theme is "Celebration." We have emphasized content and hopefully that influenced outcomes and today we celebrate.

Mark did the folder browse-by. **Helen Post** announced the Family Links conference on June 14-17, 2006. For more information go to www.utahparentcenter.org.

Leadership report: **Bruce Schroeder** welcomed **Peggy Milligan** as the new coordinator of special education at the USOE. A CD was given with the handouts from the CEC Conference. Bruce gave thanks to students volunteers for collecting handouts. **Larry Shumway** shared info on highly qualified status. There will be a plan for getting Utah teachers highly qualified.

Utah Special Educator: **Michael Herbert** introduced the May issue of the *Utah Special Educator*. He called attention to a few things in the issue: highlighted **Zig Englemann** with several articles; articles about changes and programs.

Literacy Report: **Amber Landward** said the three-tier conference is coming up. 31 of the 40 school districts are bringing teams to the conference. She talked about the summer training opportunity with the U of U Reading Clinic (six educators will be sponsored by UPDC to take this class). Aug 7-9 another LANGUAGE training with advanced on 10-11 of that week. Wilson training will be coming up as well. The selected new model sites for next year are: Cook Elementary, Freemont Elementary, Parley's Park Elementary and Green Acres Elementary. The past two years we have had reading basics. This year we will focus on "Beyond the Basics" with regional trainings to help teach specific reading information to special education teachers. Check for information on reading website. Registration will be online for these trainings.

New Teacher Update: **Dan Morgan** stated that 50% of new teachers leave within 3-5 years. Dan focused on the retention rate of Weber District and compared the teachers who are still teaching after five years. Their teacher retention rate has gotten higher each year. Dan intends to compile the same data for each district in the state.

UMTA: **Suraj Syal** talked about the upcoming UMTA year. Applications are included in the folder and each district is encouraged to send in applications., Goals for upcoming year: 1) improve themselves 2) bring change to their districts. Each district has one slot but can submit alternates for the coming year.

Presentation: **Mary Ann Prater**, BYU Special Education: Attrition Study (**Lisa Dickenson and Stephanie Harris**) – Their work sent surveys to special education directors in the 40 school districts. They had a 100% return and their study

looked at five years of data. The data was collected on special education teachers, school psychologists and speech-language pathologists. The factors they included were: moved, retired, children/pregnancy, transfer to general education and other. They shared their results with charts and graphs. Their number one reason for leaving across the board, was "moved."

Presentation: Mark Innocenti – Deaf/Blind Intervener Training Program – Early intervention research program at USU. Intervener (paraprofessional) – someone who works one on one with student who is deaf/blind, who has training and specialized skills related to deaf/blindness. Their role is to facilitate environment and the development of communications for the student. The goal is to have more training available throughout the country to work with these individuals. The training is very mixed throughout the country, with no consistency. There is a national group trying to standardize some of the necessary training. Presently there are no pre-service programs to accomplish this. There is a national council for helping train with numerous agencies helping; SKI-HI institute at the USU is in the center of the training grid. They are developing a three course paraprofessional training program. 1) introduction to deaf/blindness 2) communication and interaction and 3) additional issues in deaf/blindness. These courses are taught at community colleges. They are looking for people to train in this area.

UPDC Celebration Awards – "*More students doing better school work.*" More = quantity, accountability (GET MORE), usually large group improvement, individual improvement (I did more), requires ability to determine when you are getting more. Ways to get more: use materials and methods that work best, know exactly where you're at, review data, tempus fuget (times flights, use appropriately), recognize student effort and reward, use data to celebrate teacher success. With that in mind, the following awards were presented:

- #1 – **More:** Cache School District, accepted by Patti Willis (based on results of testing, grades 1-3, from state statistics)
- #2 – **Students:** works the hardest! – Eder Soriano, South Valley School
- #3 – **Doing:** Dr. Alan Hofmeister has done so much to help further education within the state
- #4 – **Better** (effective leadership, goals, professional development, sharing and caring): Washington School District, accepted by Peggy Childs
- #5 – **School** (where the rubber meets the road; where interaction between students and teachers interact together): Brooke Smith from Parkview Elementary
- #6 – **Work** (behavioral component – are students working?): Allan Whitmore (Wasatch District)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Those in attendance:

DiAnne Adams
Gail Albrecht

Richard Albrecht
Joyce Barnes

Wendy Carver
Dawnne Casey

Greg Chappell
Peggy Childs
Shannon Dulaney
Jan Ferre
Pat Frandsen
Janet Gibbs
Jane Golightly
Nan Gray
Michael Herbert
Alan Hofmeister
Judy Hofmeister
Cheryl Hunt
Tom Johnson
J Lynn Jones
Nancy Jones
Paula Kashiwaeda

Kelli Kercher
Chris Kupfer
Amber Landward
Lorna Larsen
Abby Lavenger
Patricia Matthews
Kathryn McCarrie
Ann Miller
Peggy Milligan
Terri Mitchell
Julie Mootz
Carma Mordecai
Dan Morgan
Calvin Newbold
Connie Nink
Jim Payant

Hollie Pettersson
Doelene Pitt
Helen Post
Vivica Powell
Mary Anne Prater
Mark Riding
Bruce Schroeder
Brooke Smith
Cheryl Smith
Suraj Syal
Christine Timothy
Jerry Timothy
Tanya Toles
Marilyn Williams
Patti Willis
Peggy Wittwer