

# GRREC SPECIAL EDUCATION

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## ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES November 16, 2012

### **In Attendance:**

#### **DISTRICTS -**

Adair – Anita Goode	Elizabethtown – Kristin Froedge	Monroe -
Allen – Janet Cooke	Glasgow – Alisha Richardson	Ohio – Christy Nofsinger
Barren - Cynthia York	Grayson –	Owensboro –
Bowling Green –	Green – Rhonda Simpson	Russell – Verlene Rogers
Breckinridge – Mike Simpson	Hancock –	Russellville –
Butler –	Hardin – Kim Adkins; Rhonda	Simpson –
Campbellsville – Joni Davis	Lockwood	Taylor – Scott Parks; Traci Sharpe
Caverna – Susan Mathews	Hart –	Todd – Kim Justice; Lesley Higgins
Clinton – Eddie Tallent	LaRue –	Warren – Vivian Hudson
Cloverport –	Logan –	West Point -
Cumberland – Paulette Andrews	McLean –	Western Ky University – Wanda
Daviess - Robin Bush	Meade – Nancy Mitcham	Chandler
Edmonson –	Metcalfe – Jamie Moss	

#### **PARTNERS -**

RTC –	KSD- Laurie VanConia	KSB –
WKU – Wanda Chandler	KAES –	

#### **CESC STAFF:**

Liz Brewer	Betsy Flener	Debra Myers
Pat Butler	Pat Kelley	Shea Rogers
Beth Carter	Donna Link	Randi Womack
Jennifer Clemmons	Kathy Maciel	
Barb DeGraaf	Betsy Madison	

#### **GUESTS:**

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### **Welcome and Introductions**

The Green River Regional Educational Cooperative Advisory Council met for its monthly meeting, on Friday, November 16, 2012, at 9:00 a.m., at Lindsey Wilson College, Adair County, Columbia, Kentucky with Chair, Traci Sharpe, presiding.

Ms. Sharpe called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone and introductions were made by the group and celebrations were announced. Betsy Madison led the group in a reflections activity, “What will Special Education look like in your district in five years?” using the mountain top reflection statements made at the last Advisory Council retreat.

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## Reflection

Betsy Madison

Quotes about change were posted around the room and the group was instructed to consider the acronyms KCAS, CHETL, TPGES, KPREP, and to choose a quote that they felt reflected change in their district. The groups formed by choosing the quote then came up with a change statement that reflected their feelings regarding future changes in their districts.

**Quote 1:** “The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking.” Albert Einstein

**Change Statement:** “We need to change our stinking thinking.”

**Quote 2:** “And this is how change happens. One gesture. One person. One moment at a time.” Libba Bray

**Change Statement:** “In five years, all education will probably look like personalized education on steroids.”

**Quote 3:** “It’s easier to ACT your way into a new way of thinking than to THINK your way into a new way of acting.” Jerry Sternin

**Change Statement:** “We fake it. We need to put our positive attitude out there and hopefully our teachers will say, “There is a lot of change but that is a good thing and hopefully by acting that way everything will be okay.” Added to the statement was “presume confidence”. “While you are faking it, you are presuming your teachers are getting it.”

**Quote 4:** “All growth is a leap in the dark, a spontaneous unpremeditated act without the benefit of experience.” Henry Miller.

**Change Statement:** “Wondering if the statement could be changed as all growth in education is a leap in the dark and a lot of times our experiences hold us back. The statement could be changed to, “All growth is a leap in the dark, a meditated act with the benefit of experience” because we always know those leaps are going to come.

**Quote 5:** “You don’t lead by pointing and telling people some place to go. You lead by going to that place and making a case.” Ken Kesey

**Change Statement:** “Consolidation of all programs. To promote change that meets the needs of all students.”

**Quote 6:** “Change almost never fails because it’s too early. It almost always fails because it’s too late.” Seth Godin

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**Change Statement:** “You don’t wait for the not-so-positive results of KPREP. You use the data and information and knowledge you have “now” regarding the students and work with those students. Don’t wait for the failures to come back to clean it up. “

## Assessment Results

**Jennifer Clemmons and Barb DeGraaf**

“Ky’s New Assessment and Accountability System and What it Looks Like”

Jennifer and Barb gave a PowerPoint presentation overview of how district test scores were determined by considering the 5 components – Achievement, GAP, Growth, College/Career Readiness and Graduation Rate. They reviewed the point system and which components are considered and how they are weighted to derive at the percentages of Novice, Apprentice, Proficient, Proficient/Distinguished. Jennifer and Barb will post the PowerPoint on the GRREC website. They also reviewed and explained the factors considered to determine how a district can have a focus school or how the district can become a focus district. The group was then asked to place on an index card one area of need they have after looking online at the State and District Report Cards and also what GRREC can do to support their district in this process.

There is an overview of the growth piece located on the KDE website. To locate these documents, go to KDE’s website, click on “Assessment and Accountability” tab, then click on the “District Support” tab. Under “District Support” there is a tab called “K-PREP”. On the right side of that page under the title, “Understanding the Assessment and Accountability System” there is an archived webinar called “Growth Explained” and a “Growth PowerPoint” that Ken Draut and Rhonda Sims have prepared.

## Hot Topics & Related Discussion/Talking Points

**Beth Carter**

Feedback was requested about the meeting location. Locations to be considered are Hart Co, Cave City, Elizabethtown or Bowling Green.

Discussion: What to do about teachers leaving trainings early... How different time zones influence the timing of trainings... These issues will continue to be considered - with adjustments made if possible. It was also suggested that Directors be made aware of individuals leaving early – noting initials for PM sign in...

Kathy Maciel reminded everyone that the SCM Trainer Certification training is scheduled for November 26-30. More registrants are needed to cover GRREC’s cost. There are still 9 slots available for the training. There is a possibility that if districts have staff that need the recertification training, they could possibly attend the last couple of days of the training. The recertification portion would be at a reduced cost. If you have staff that you might want to send to either training, please email Kathy.

Randi Womack shared that the Building Conceptual Blocks in Understanding Mathematics Conceptually trainings have been set. The flyer will be coming out soon. The trainings are scheduled as follows:

Module 1 – Addition/Subtraction, January 23-24, 2013 – Hardin Co Board of Education

Module 2 – Multiplication/Division, February 27-28, 2013 – Owensboro Board of Education

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Module 3 – Fractions, March 20-21, 2013 Warren Co Board of Education

Coaching by Randi, Rebecca and Jennifer is to take place in between the trainings after each module. Teachers will be expected to attend all six days. It will be for special education teachers only or if there is a co-teaching situation, the regular education teacher will be invited. A request was made to not forget to send the FMD teachers as with the SPLASH program, Karen Karp has been coming in to teach Math Conceptually and these trainings apply to them also. There are only 25 slots available.

## **Innovation Configuration Maps**

**Amanda Abell**

Amanda shared (as an awareness only) that the Innovation Configuration Map is coming. It was shared with the Superintendents at the last GRREC Board Meeting and will be shared with Instructional Supervisors at next week's ISLN meetings but it is not expected to be completed until January.

## **Focus School Framework Update**

**Liz Brewer**

The Data Retreats available dates are scheduled as follows:

November 28-30, 2012

December 4-6, 2012

December 10, 11 & 13, 2012

January 14-16, 2013

January 15-17, 2013

January 29-31, 2013

Data Retreats will also be offered in the summer.

At the end of the three day session, the teams will be utilizing the Assist Tool to revise more meaningful CDIPS and CSIPS based on the data analyzed during the process. Location will be determined based on interest. Donna will email the flyer. Even though the flyer says today is the deadline, if interested, please contact Stacy Owen at GRREC. The team must include the principal but team makeup should include 8-10 people consisting of Special Ed and General Ed, some administrators, and staff from each content area. Professional Development: Based on the revised CDIPS and CSIPS, like needs will be considered and timely and high quality Professional Development around those needs will be offered.

Culture Component - there is a team of eight from GRREC that have been trained by Chris Wagner and Melissa Biggerstaff, and the team has been going into the five pivotal leadership schools to complete culture assessments. Reports will be delivered to the various schools. The group will begin completing assessments for the focus schools after completing the five pivotal schools process.

Through KDE, a component of the SPDIG grant, there is a Co-teaching for GAP Closure grant. The grant will allow enhancement of the Co-teaching training. There are two components of the goal. One is increased use of evidence based instructional strategies. An evaluator has been hired as well as the group will be working in Amy Lingo out of U of L to come up with the enhanced co-teaching trainings. The second component is to increase student engagement measured by the students themselves. They will be monitoring their own level of engagement. That is new for GRREC. There is an application

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process for your focus schools that will be coming out of Toyah Robey's office if a district wants to participate. You will be hearing more about that soon.

On January 30, 2013, the second GRREC Counselor Connection will take place. Liz will be working with Kelly Sandidge, the Director of Student Assistance at LaRue Co H.S. Kelly and his co-worker will be focused on Scheduling for RTI and Co-teaching. Liz will also have someone offering assistance with Infinite Campus. If there is time, Liz would like a counselor group speak on EPATH and how that data is being used for differentiation and to ensure mastery of additional skills.

Rhonda Simpson share with some of the materials received at the CASE Conference. The materials included:

- CASE goals.
- Sequestration - What you need to Know - expected cuts in Kentucky education funding and the impact Sequestration will have on Federal Education Programs.
- CEC's position on Special Education Teacher Evaluation law.
- The next Annual Fall CASE Conference scheduled for September 26-28 in Indianapolis, IN.
- Other handouts included the value of being a member of CEC and CEC's activities in education.

## Transition Update

**Beth Carter**

Things to look for in your emails that you have received or will be receiving:

- Comparison Chart on Guardianship that teachers/parents will be interested in reviewing.
- AT&T has a special program that you can get a cell phone for the elderly or those with disabilities at a discounted rate.
- P&A (Protection and Advocacy) is part of RITT at the north end. Two documents that P&A has sent out that the group should watch for and be aware that these documents are out there for the public to read: P&A – Partners in Advocacy and Reclusion/Restraint – Shouldn't Schools be Safe? Beth will also email the documents to everyone.
- Beth has posted documents on GRREC website that can be downloaded and Beth will also email to the group: We need to work to move from compliance to successful transition (CCR) outcomes for students...
  - ExPLORE Booklet on how to utilize the ExPLORE data
  - College Readiness Standards – important document for students/parents - how to enhance ACT scores – what to focus on/highlight to bump up the scores to the next level for College and Career Readiness. Can also assist with academic intervention strategies
  - Beth and Shea are talking about combining IEP/Transition development goal writing using specific topics that are talked about here to connect math and literacy.
  - ILP/KISTS Survey Merge (last year's KISTS survey questions embedded into the ILP Survey for high school seniors ) The state Transition Role Group will review these questions based on discussion from the GRREC North RITT - to discuss possible changes – do not anticipate any changes for this year.

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## Hot Topics:

Dropout & graduation rate: Utilize district information from the PtGT (Persistence to Graduation Tool) – Share this information with district individuals who can assist with families – ex. Kathy Maciel and Beth will be sharing this information within training for FRYSC staff in February.

Transition Attainment Record (TAR) – has good transition information to use in collecting data on low incidence kids, however, teachers are concerned about the rating scale. The scale goes from 1 (exposed to content) to 3 (mastery of content). Teachers are feeling uncomfortable on when to use “3”? If you have additional questions/concerns, email Beth Carter. She will be taking the concern to the next state Transition Role Group meeting scheduled for December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Deb Myers brought up if you use “Mastery”, be sure to test it out and document the results. The teacher may also want to come up with the criteria of what “Mastery” meant - for example (able to do 3 times).

Also Deb received an email regarding the Alternate Test. KDE has developed an Alternate Resource Guide and it will be posted soon. It is being edited at this time. Because of various complaints of the complexity of the previous Alternate Resource Guide, KDE stated that... “Based on feedback from teachers in the field great efforts have been made to further reduce the language, the memory load and the complexity of the attainment task and still be aligned with the standards”. It will be posted on the website upon completion.

## Director’s Meeting Update

Donna Link

- Donna met Monday with Brent Garrett. He is working with the coops to develop an evaluation tool to make sure that services that the Coops provide are having an impact on student achievement.
- Felicia met with Donna, Amanda and Liz and talked extensively about the difference in being strategic and being operational.  
We need to be more strategic in:
  - Services we provide
  - Decisions we are making about our students
  - How we are preparing our teachers who teach our students with intensive needs

Examples of what is meant by “operational”:

- Providing Arc Chair Training
- Providing IEP Training
- Conducting Record Reviews

Felicia says the operational piece is important, part of our work and needs to continue but need to find a balance in the Strategic piece and the Operational piece. Emphasis is building capacity within our districts so districts can have personnel there to lead and monitor the operational piece so the DoSE can focus on the instructional and being strategic. So, the services GRREC is providing are targeted toward helping our teachers be strong instructionally and using best practices in the classroom.

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Discussion pertaining to KDE Delivery Plans:

The Proficiency Delivery Plan, The Gap Delivery Plan, The College and Career Readiness Delivery Plan and the Teacher Growth and Effectiveness Plan...

The goals in these three plans will be driving our work. We will take a closer look at these plans in January.

Proficiency Plan targets the elementary level. College and Career Readiness Plan has goals for secondary school and the GAP plan is for the sub group including special education – those that aren't making gains that they need to make academically. The Teacher Growth and Effectiveness Plan focuses on the teachers developing into better teachers. Reviewing the plans will be on the agenda in January and there will be a sharing with the group of the implications of those plans in our work and how GRREC can support DoSE, Districts and teachers.

Liz said Felicia also stressed the importance of accountability. There is a new activity log program being piloted by some of the coops. Felicia reviewed the log. There were 765 activities documented, of those, over 400 of those activities were not connected to the delivery plans. Felicia again talked about being strategic and being connected to the plans. Question of how to strategically abandon some of the plans is a concern.

Amanda mentioned another area Felicia stressed was regarding the implementation of the new standards and how district practices have changed with the new standards. If a district just took out the core content and replaced with common core, the point has been missed. Along with the new standards, there has to be a new practice.

Beth mentioned the yellow highlighted portion of the Special Ed Assist data, college and career readiness on the dropout chart is incorrect on the KDE website, but Pam Coe has fixed it as of Thursday night. It will be sent out to the group. Pam Coe had sent to Donna but Donna stated that it could not be sorted and that Pam was going to fix that also. She will send out when corrected.

Donna mentioned that there are other ASSIST tools. On that webpage, there is also a letter from Johnny. Donna encouraged the group read that letter on assist and KCMP. There is a Special Education Guidance Document on the website that is really helpful to have when meeting with district review teams and discussing the data. There are investigative questions that you can ask and suggested strategies that you can use to address any concerns or needs.

One misconception that Donna wanted to mention is that the spreadsheet on the webpage containing special education data is not embedded within the ASSIST tool, but should be by next year.

Donna recommended that DoSE be involved in the District Review teams and recommended that the DoSE should frequently meet with special education personnel and review the data and make recommendations to the DRT.

How much data should be kept for each indicator. We will ask Johnny in December?

Record Review report is important. It would show how the district is keeping on top of compliance.

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It was asked how long should the KCMP information be kept. 5 years was recommended. We will ask Johnny for a definite answer.

Within school and district planning initiatives -goals should not just “be attainable” but it will be important that the IEP is written to make a difference to make sure that students are career and college ready.

Betsy provided a ‘mini-training’ - talked about RTI and will send the PowerPoint. The following Apps were shared with the group:

Writing apps:

- Book Creator
- Show Me
- Sentence Builder
- Story Building
- Pen Ultimate
- Ideas Sketch
- Jot
- Corkulous

Math apps:

- Math Board
- Coin Math
- Virtual Manipulative
- Montessori Place Value
- Multiplication Facts
- Grade 1 Math

Other apps that Betsy thought were good were: Audio Note (live scribe pen) and Stick Pick

The next meeting is scheduled for December 7 at GRREC. It will be the Christmas Celebration. Johnny Collett will be there to answer all our questions. The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Christmas Celebration: Names will be drawn by those participating and a gift will be purchased for that person based on their interests. All gifts will be donated to charity.