

## **Parent Mentor Council Minutes**

COSERRC

June 7, 2006

### **Participating Members:**

- **OCECD:** Lee Ann Derugen, Colleen Miller, Barbara Rice
- **ODE:** Jo Hannah Ward
- **Northeast:** Cindy Wilcoxon, Zivile Khoury
- **Northwest:** Laurie Betscher
- **East Central:** Kathy Pavlik, Cheri McCullough
- **Southeast:** Carla Brown
- **Central:** Lauri Kaplan, Jacqueline Howley
- **Mideast:** Tami Vandygriff, Becky Thomas
- **Southwest:** Moira Laughlin, Rose Kahsar
- **North Central:** Lin Bills, Vicki Deel-Lezon

The June 7, 2006 meeting of the Parent Mentor Council was called to order by Tami Vandygriff at 10:00 at COSERRC. There were 18 members in attendance.

Minutes from the February 23, 2006 meeting were reviewed and approved as presented with a motion by Rose Kahsar and a second from Jacqueline Howley.

### **Reports:**

#### **OEC-**

- Jo Hannah Ward reported that the Asst. Director Deb Telfer is now serving as interim director until a replacement is found to replace Mike Armstrong.
- The new grants have all been mailed with the dollar amount remaining the same for next year. The budget items for the 08-09 school year will be decided by June 07.
- Jo Hannah handed out the revised scope of work for parent mentors which was included in each of the grant packets for this year.

## **OCECD-**

- Lee Ann Derugen reported that the IDEA regs should be out by the end of August as they are on the agenda for the OSEP conference. Regional meetings will be held in October but no specific dates are available. There are 6 regions in the country and we are region 4.
- If anyone knows anyone who would be a good candidate to replace Mike Armstrong, please contact the OCECD office.
- We received an update on House Bill 431 which would make available vouchers similar to the Autism vouchers for all disabilities. The proposal is to use a weighted formula based on the disability label. It is not anticipated that it will be voted on before the November election. The OCECD has passed on their input regarding the program. Jo Hannah Ward related that there is no line item to support the cost of such a program so districts could bear the brunt based on what they already receive. The Autism Grant is currently \$20,000 and slated to increase to \$28,000. There are currently 435 students on the Autism Grant.
- Partnering for Progress will be held on October 12<sup>th</sup> at the Marriott North.
- Colleen related that the Brown v. Board of Education is coming to the forefront again this year.
- Colleen announced that two new staff members have joined the OCECD. Mike Thomas will be covering the Dayton area and Marbella Caceres is specializing in Spanish/Latino community support and training.

## **Regional Reports:**

- **Northeast:** Zivile Khoury reported that the region met on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Discussion revolved around the Hope Mentoring program and a school psychologist spoke to the group on RTI.
- **Northwest:** Laurie Betscher reported that they had two speakers at their meeting on April 5<sup>th</sup>, one who addressed audiology and the other was a mobility specialist.
- **East Central:** Kathy Pavlik's group met at the last conference and discussed the new committee proposal.
- **Southeast:** Carla Brown reported that Valorie Dombroskas joined the group for an open discussion. They also hosted an OISM training from their SERRC.
- **Central:** Jacqueline Howley reported that the group met on April 7<sup>th</sup> and received training on OISM from Ellen Frasca and discussed next years PAC meetings. Three of their mentors presented at the Ohio Association of Gifted Children. They also met in May to hear from both Ohio Legal Rights and On My Own Inc.
- **Mideast:** Beckey Thomas reported that the group had a meeting with their regular format of networking and sharing of ideas.

- **Southwest:** Moira Laughlin reported that they met on April 25<sup>th</sup> with discussion revolving around the new committee proposal.
- **North Central:** Vicki Deel-Lezon reported that they met on the eve of the Wrightslaw seminar to organize and meet with Attorney Wayne Steedman. The conference was a huge success and many thanks to the OCECD for sponsorship.

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Parent Mentor Support Committee:**

- The committee met on May 24<sup>th</sup>. They will be assisting with the new mentor orientation which will probably be on November 7. This is open to brand new mentors and those who are still in their first and second years. The group also discussed ways to provide support to all mentors including ways to strengthen the buddy system.

### **Archive Committee:**

- The committee met on March 30 and 31<sup>st</sup> to document Parent Mentor activities and finish the 2005-06 album. The group discussed how they could better serve our program. Other discussion centered on how to make the most of each member's time and where to meet. They liked the "Caption This" contest they held at last year's conference but no decision was made as to repeating the activity.

### **PR Committee**

- The group met on May 18<sup>th</sup> with three members present. They have researched the PM website further and found out that the site is actually privately owned by Pat Linkhorn. The PR Committee, with agreement from Pat Linkhorn and the OCECD will work on adding content and making suggestions to implement a parent center link. There was also discussion to make sure all important links are provided and best ways to access the site. In Council discussion it was also suggested that ODE provide a link to the PM website. A PM networking area would also remain with the possibility of adding a password to enter.
- They also discussed ways to promote to our specific regions including a publicity tip sheet which should be available at the Fall conference

### **Skills and Knowledge:**

- The group met on May 22<sup>nd</sup> in Columbus. They discussed the proposal to rotate all committees and decided that their committee would not support the proposal as their work is done a year in advance.
- Plans were finalized for the November Fall Conference. The dates have been changed to November 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> with some committees to arrive on

- the 7<sup>th</sup>. The location will be the Columbus Marriott Northwest in Dublin. The committee is hoping to distribute packets prior to the conference this year.
- On November 8<sup>th</sup> our speaker for the day will be Cathy Ann Hamilton who is from the Framework for Poverty with an emphasis on literacy. There will also be regional breakout time with given discussion topics. Our second day morning speaker will be Ann Cooper-Guinan on the topic of the Federal regulations. The Ohio Parent Resource Network will present in the afternoon regarding school climate guidelines and resources available.
  - The group also discussed the conference evaluations including a new format and strategies to make sure all mentors participate as this information is vital.
  - It has also been decided that the March Conference will be for one day with no overnight, also due to OCECD budget cuts. Barbara Rice related that the one day event will most likely not be held at a hotel and is actively seeking suitable facilities. They are hoping to book Paula Kluth, author of "You're Going to Love This Kid".
  - The committee also reviewed the PDP. The 40 hour total has remained the same but the breakout will be different due to the conference structure change. This will be absorbed as an increase to the supplemental hours. The 22 hours supplemental will also include one training at a regional meeting. During meeting discussion it was determined that there are other ways to make up core hours if you are prohibited from attending the conference.
  - The PM survey to see training needs was reviewed. There were 18 main areas of training desired. A new online survey will be conducted using this list to prioritize the needs of the group.

### **Facilities:**

- The Facilities Committee was scheduled to meet on Monday June 19<sup>th</sup> at the Marriott to make final decisions for the Fall Conference. As the OCECD has faced a 10% budget cut, Lee Ann suggested that the OCECD take over making these arrangements as they already do the Spring Conference. This will save money in regards to decorating, meeting, and lodging expense. It was agreed to disband this committee immediately as the OCECD could easily absorb these duties.

### **Old Business:**

- At the last meeting Council was provided recommendations from the PM Committee Review Group. This was a 3 prong recommendation which all Council members were to take back to their regions for their opinions and impending vote at this meeting. During the regional reports each region recapped briefly the opinions of their members. There was also a lengthy discussion under Old Business later in the meeting. There was a variety of

- opinions and some offers of alternative versions. Some of these were to rotate the others but not Skills and Knowledge, some related having no interest at all in rotating any of the committees due to personal interest levels of their members, find other ways to make new members feel welcome, consider the increased use of technology, etc.. The majority of council members felt that currently there was a good representation from across the state on all committees. As this is viewed as a motion, a vote was taken with 6 regions against the proposal and 2 were in agreement. Motion failed. This topic will remain in the Action Plan to continue to be reviewed/updated.
- The Council divided into groups to have a work session to review the current Action Plan. All of the updates were presented to the Council including making the Action Plan effective until 2011 (5 year plan). A motion to adopt the review updates was made by Lin Bills and seconded by Kathy Pavlik. Motion Carried. It is noted that the Action Plan will need ongoing consideration to add new plan priorities and updates and that this is not a final document.

#### **New Business:**

- Tami Vandygriff handed out the Parent Mentor Council Co-Chair revised Application Form. Anyone interested in the co-chair position will be able to submit their application via on-line. Barbara Rice will be sending out the application to all mentors. Please submit your application to Tami by September 15<sup>th</sup>. Remember that this is a 4 year total commitment as you would serve 2 years as the co-chair and 2 years as the chair.
- Lee Ann Derugen discussed the On-line survey with the Council. There was discussion as to what we could effectively do with the information as there are many items that the Council does not have control over. It was suggested that mentors share this information with their District Reps to see if any changes could be made in comparing how other areas use their grants.
- As a follow-up to the survey discussion Lee Ann presented that they are planning on scheduling a meeting with District Reps this year. Items to discuss, among others, could include access to VI-B funds and the PM budget process. Details to follow.
- The Parent Mentor Operating Guidelines were reviewed.
- The Non-State or Non-Federally Funded Parent Mentor Project Guidelines were presented. A change is to be made in number 4 regarding the number of regional meetings that are required.
- Jo Hannah Ward would like to prepare a sort of organizational flow for the Parent Mentors which could be adopted as Parent Mentor operating guidelines. This would detail our entire program including our mission,

etc. A committee was formed under Jo Hannah's leadership to work on this in the fall.

The next meeting of this Council will be on November 7th from 4-6 p.m. before the conference.

Tami Vandygriff adjourned the meeting at 2:10.

Respectfully submitted by Vicki Deel-Lezon, Recorder