

DCASE General Membership Meeting  
November 12, 2009  
St. Coletta PCS

- **Welcome and Introductions:** Thirteen schools were represented.
  
- **Finance Committee Report:** The treasurer reported that about one-third of membership had paid their dues. DCASE has a clean audit for the last 2 years. Copies will be posted on the web site. Officers and members attending the general meeting were provided copies. The Assessment Project budget is almost reconciled. There will be a surplus which the treasurer has suggested be carried over to cover the cost of assessments that need to be paid out on a more timely basis or for schools in economic stress.
  
- **OSSE Update:** The executive director reported that OSSE was unable to meet prior to the general membership meeting due to a verification visit from OSEP. Amy Maisterra (chief of staff for the Assistant Superintendent for Special Education) did provide updates in critical areas:

1. Monitoring – specifically: what is the process for the editing of the monitoring materials; the time line for completion of the editing; the projected start of the actual monitoring.

Answer: Courtney and I will be reviewing recommended edits from her team as well as the input you provided, with a goal of having a draft ready for legal review by Thanksgiving. The draft will go to legal with a plan to have all tools finalized by second week in December. Letters to all nonpublic providers are slated to be sent by first week in December. It is our goal to get a few site visits under our belt before the holiday break, with a plan to be in "full production" in January, after the holidays.

2. Proposed regulations -- specifically: when will the proposed Chapter A28 be republished for comment.

Answer: We believe end of year- Mid December at earliest.

3. EasyIEP – specifically: when will training be offered for nonpublic schools.

Answer: We are looking at early December for this. Details forthcoming.

4. Rate Setting – specifically: when will the planning process for the establishment of the rate setting methodology begin.

Answer: The rate setting conversation is planned to begin in January, with research and planning beginning in December.

Concern was expressed over the timetables for completion of the monitoring materials; the timing of the monitoring and the absence of EasyIEP training prior to its start; the timeline for rate setting.

• **DCPS Update: NPS Policy Group:** A new project coordinator has been hired to head the Nonpublic Policy Group. This project is developing policy around how to transition students to lesser restrictive environments. The executive director met with Kathleen Webb and volunteered to help set up any focus groups needed to explore the perspective of the NPS community in reviewing the proposed policies; she will keep in touch with Ms. Webb and will update DCASE as warranted.

• **Resolution to Extend Current Board Term:** The treasurer read the proposed resolution; members approved unanimously to extend the terms through the end of the school year.

• **Event Update:** The president reviewed the outcomes of the second planning committee for the conference scheduled now for March 11 or 12. Volunteers for the committee were solicited at the membership meeting.

1. PR/Media Committee: The need to have common and consistent language in describing nonpublic programs was discussed; the goal to be a cohesive message from all schools in part to counter the negative publicity nonpublic schools are receiving. A committee will be formed; volunteers should call or email Anne Gay.

- **Assessment Project Update:** Laura Loessner, Project Director, reported on the numbers as of November. The project is being used by 13 members actively; we continue to average about \$40-\$50,000 per month. DCASE now has read-only access to the assessment quick base system as well as the B/J quick base. We can check on the timing of our data entry into their system as well as the timeliness of notifications. Anne and Laura met with the Expeditors and Program Managers (NPS unit) last week to explain the project and foster better communication.

- **Open:** Members shared upcoming events.

Please call or email Anne Gay if you or a staff member can volunteer for either the PR/Media Committee or the Planning Committee or if there are questions:

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