

MAISA Early Childhood Committee

Wednesday, February 20, 2008, 10:00 a.m.

MELG Building, MASA Conference Room, Lansing, Michigan

Members Present: Gerri Allen (MSPRA Liaison), Brad Biladeau (MASA), Michele Brahaney (Monroe ISD), Yvonne Donohoe (remote, TBA ISD), Joan Firestone (Oakland Schools), Carl III (Allegan ESA), Sue Javid (Macomb ISD), Chris Kolb (ECIC), Lena Montgomery (Wayne RESA), Michelle Nicholson (Ingham ISD), Alan Oman (Midland ESA), Johanna Ostwald (remote, Dickinson-Iron ISD), Stephanie Peters (Ingham ISD), Rich Van Tol (Saginaw ISD), Denise VanDyken (Allegan ESA), Bill Witt (MDE Liaison).

- I. The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by Joan Firestone, who chaired the meeting in Thomas Svitkovich's absence. Briefly introductions were made by all participants. Joan announced the following change to the agenda: The legislative update given by Brad Biladeau was moved to 12:00 p.m.
- II. Bill Witt announced that he would be serving as the MDE Liaison since the previous liaison, Jackie Wood, has retired. Bill also provided an update on job postings related to early childhood positions.

III. Committee Reports

Goal 1 - Lena Montgomery distributed brochures of the Low or No Cost Ideas for ISDs for review and feedback. The committee discussed whether to leave MAISA on the brochure or give local ISDs the ability to customize. The consensus was to leave MAISA on the back and allow ISDs the option to customize the space on the front cover. Other edits discussed included the publication's title, using the phrase newborn to five (rather than birth to five), and using common introductory language in order to establish uniformity of documents created within the committee. The target audience is administrators and local districts and could be used with community agencies, as well.

Goal 2 - Sue Javid shared copies of the State and Federal Programming for Zero to Five document. A suggestion was made to consider organizing the programs in the document by categories, i.e. parenting, preschool, etc. It was also suggested that 0-3 Secondary Prevention Programs be added to the document.

All suggested revisions should be forwarded by February 25, 2008. The committee discussed dissemination plans for both documents, which include a presentation by the committee's chairperson during the MAISA Spring Meetings on March 17-18, 2008. The committee suggested MAISA announce that a copy of the documents would be available for each ISD, along with an electronic version that would be sent to the superintendents for follow up and to allow for customization prior to local distribution.

- IV. **Legislative Discussion:** Legislative items discussed include MSRP, Great Parents Great Start and full day kindergarten. The committee discussed the potential role of ISDs in improving the accountability and quality of MSRP, along with the appropriate funding. Other MSRP-related topics discussed include an increase in the per child amount to \$3,500, as well as funding and flexibility to serve additional children, continuing to focus on 4-year olds (or including 3-year olds) and improving quality through the role of an early childhood specialist. Chris Kolb and the committee briefly discussed the ECIC and the committee working together to influence MSRP and potential rule making.

The committee also discussed the desire to advocate for increase in funding for 32j Great Parents, Great Start due to the flat funding over the past few years. It was suggested that that unused funds be re-distributed to low funded districts to increase service delivery. The joint MASA and MAISA Legislation Committee met regarding full day kindergarten. It was determined that there is support, provided there is adequate space and funding for implementation. Further discussion included developmentally appropriate practice, methods of implementation and the compulsory age to start school.

V. Status of Early Childhood Investment Corporation: Chris Kolb discussed innovation grants as outlined in section 32h of the Governor's proposed budget, including \$2.5 million to ISDs for identifying evidence-based practices that provide children from birth to age five with quality early learning experiences that promote school readiness. These funds would be used to develop model programs to: provide professional development for child care providers, pilot a Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) in some Great Start Collaborative communities, look at economic development opportunities for microenterprises or center directors to mentor local providers, work with up to three "enlightened" districts on investing earlier for at-risk children to impact AYP and implement an early developmental inventory that assesses a broad range of competencies of incoming kindergarteners and target community resources towards improving academic outcomes for at-risk children. There is an assessment tool that has been used in Canada and Australia, and the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) has been working on adapting the language for relevance in the United States. UCLA is also offering to work with states that are interested in using this tool. The committee discussed the assessment tool, including the number of student observations and the connection to Great Start Collaboratives. In general, with the additional money to add Great Start Collaboratives, most communities should be able to participate. Further, in the recent application process for new Great Start Collaboratives, all ISDs (except four) submitted applications to become a Great Start Collaborative sites.

VI. Next Meeting: Thursday, March 27, 2008, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

- Discuss the response of the joint MASA/MAISA Legislation Committee to our documents;
- Discuss what this committee can do to improve the quality of pre-kindergarten programs (MSRP); and
- Discuss legislation relative to full day kindergarten including, compulsory age for starting school and how this work fits with early childhood issues.

Submitted by: Michelle Nicholson, Ingham ISD

mn/tf

amended April 22, 2008