

# Utah Paraprofessional Consortium

Minutes for September 22, 2010

*The mission of the Utah Paraprofessional Consortium is to promote training and support for paraprofessionals, leading to improved outcomes for children, youth and families.*

**In attendance:** Nan Kirkpatrick (USEA), Marcia Larson (Granite School District), Kit Giddings (UPDC), Marilyn Likins (USU), Diana Fillmore, Jerry Purles (Granite School District), Betty Ashbaker (BYU), Rebecca Farnsworth (Clear Horizon Academy)

## **Future Meetings:**

- Oct 27 Wednesday 1-3 pm
- Dec 8 Wednesday 1-3 pm

**Discussion:** We need to identify a Title I representative from one of the districts and encourage her/him to attend so that their interests can be addressed?

## **Paraeducator to Teacher Scholarship update (Marilyn Likins)**

- Applications reviewed Aug 10, 100 applicants
- 9 newly awarded scholarships, 3 renewals
- Average award approximately \$2000+
- Names of recipients to be announced
  - Will be listed in the UtahPARAgraph
  - Shared at the Utah Paraeducator Conference
- With change of personnel at the USOE and other factors, word was very late in getting out to possible recipients. It was a "perfect storm".

## **District and IHE partnerships (Paraeducator to Teacher Pathways) Update (Marcia Larson & Jerry Purles-Granite)**

- District and IHE partnerships were developed in conjunction with the Personnel Development Center (Phoebe Gillespie and Lisa Churchill, Chico State)
- Goal: Tap into the paraeducators as a pool for potential future teachers and develop pathways to make it possible for paraeducators to complete the education to earn their teaching credentials.

- Steps taken by Granite School District were reviewed including:
  - Night to honor paraeducators at which information was distributed about teacher training programs
  - Night with IHE representatives to review transcripts and answer questions
  - Checklist has developed to help paraeducators know how to apply for scholarships and to complete the application process
  - Developing cohorts of students enrolled in IHEs for mutual support
- Davis , Weber & Ogden districts also involved in a similar process
- Application for 2010-2011 has been submitted with the intent of continue extend the program

### **Utah Consortium Report (Kit Giddings)**

- Many new Special Education directors
- Kit shared information on the Paraeducator Conference and the Utah Paraeducator Handbook

### **Utah Paraeducator Conference**

- November 12-13, 2011 in Provo (Provo Marriott - downtown)
- Cost:
  - \$50 per paraeducator/teacher team (team = 1 teacher, 1 paraeducator)
  - \$35 per paraeducator
- Registration is available on the UPDC website:
  - <http://updc.org/registration/> or
  - [http://data.updc.org/paraeducator/state\\_conference\\_2010/notice.html](http://data.updc.org/paraeducator/state_conference_2010/notice.html)
- Awards for Outstanding Paraeducators will be Saturday at sit-down lunch

### **Statewide Paraeducator Training Options (Betty Ashbaker)**

- The problem is not finding good training material. The challenge is finding what best fits our needs and the appropriate delivery method.
  - Online information is convenient and important, but lacks personal oversight and a way to know if a paraeducator understands and can apply the information appropriately.
  - Need to sift through existing information rather than to "reinvent the wheel"
  - Final result will likely be a hybrid of online and classroom type training.
- We need to look for funding and organize a subcommittee.
- Possibility of certification was also discussed.
- Need to look at Linda Alsop's program for training Interveners. It is an online program for individuals who are working with students with deaf/blind disabilities.