Attendees: Mackenzie Beck, Meg Gomes, Trecia Pimer, Deb Infante, Carolanne Guilmette, Kristal Falcone, Donna Allinson, Brendan Murphy

I. Call to Order 7:20

II. Old Business

a. November Minutes Approval - Motion made to approve November minutes. Approved.

b. Project Unified Update – Request was made for status of unified classes being added to the course catalog for next year. B. Murphy reported that 4 proposals for courses were submitted – Unified Physical Education, Unified Food & Safety, Unified School Store and Unified Theater. Proposals were presented to all department heads and opportunities were given to ask questions. High School Principal approved 2 out of 4. Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent had concerns that a unified classroom would create segregation. They cited the same kind of classroom atmosphere and mixture of students could be achieved under typical inclusion. The difference between an inclusion classroom and a unified classroom is that the unified classroom aims at getting the right peers together. Unified classes would also show the district’s commitment to Project Unified. Unified classrooms may present better opportunities for students to find career paths. How is a unified classroom different from a reverse inclusion classroom? It is not. There are many case studies on reverse inclusion and how special education students show marked improvements in all domains – social, communication, etc. Inclusion happens both ways. LAC could write a letter as a committee to express our support of unified classrooms. Motion made to have K. Falcone write letter, take an email vote on final letter to send and ratify vote at next LAC meeting. Approved.

c. ABA Presentation - Kristal confirmed date with Jen Marshall for presentation 5/19. Will work with Jen and Trudeau Center to create flyer

d. Principal roundtable – Kristal heard from Paula Fusco and Steven Ruscito and will most likely be able to attend the February WLAC meeting.

e. SibLinks – No update. Still need to figure out program logistics even if someone can fund the initial training.
III. New Business

Self-directed supports available for adults with developmental disabilities not for 18 and under population. Gives families more control on how to spend their Medicaid dollars. Self directed supports are completely separate from CEDARR. A worker gets sent down from the state to evaluate services. Resources available for families to find In Home Service Providers – [www.caringworkers.org](http://www.caringworkers.org). D. Allinson reported that they are receiving training from the Department of Developmental Disabilities - Mark Souza and are initiating the process in junior year.

IV. Co-Chair Reports - none

V. Director’s Report

Pam Potemri was not in attendance. D. Allinson reporting on her behalf. Working with RI State transition piece and making long term and short term goals for the year. Brendan and Donna working on “Transition Tuesdays” which will start next semester. Donna has been going into classes to work on transitions. Has completed 8 or 9 transition vocational assessments so far. Also working on Student led IEPs. Juniors want to go in and lead their own IEPs. Students need to be able to articulate their disability. Many of them think they are not organized. Want them to become advocates - why do I want an IEP? Donna’s students are reading “The Reason I Jump,” a book written by a student who became his own advocate.

VI. Hearing from the Public

The statuses/answers to the following questions are requested for the next meeting:
1. What is the new policy for reporting to parents when students don’t receive services?
2. What is the status of the swimming collaboration with Y?
3. What is being done at WMS to ensure there are reserved handicap seats available for students and their families? Report of not being able to bring a student in his handicap stroller (people sitting in the handicap section wouldn’t move)

Brendan shared:
1. March 7th is the start of the Unified Basketball team.
2. Westerly Wildcats are starting their unified bowling this Sunday at Alley Katz.
3. February 1st Zombathon from 12pm-4pm at the Westerly High School – Renee Lachance’s senior project aimed to raise money for project unified, spread the word to end the word initiative.

VII. Adjournment 8:14pm