Westerly Local Advisory Committee Meeting
Tower Street Community Center
93 Tower Street, Westerly, RI 02891
Thursday March 20, 2014
7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Attendees: Pam Potemri, Deb Infante, Jackie Abberton, Kristal Falcone, Meg Gomes, Trecia Pimer, Carolann Guilmette, Bill Aiello, Jodie Luzzi, Mackenzie Beck

Call to Order 7:06PM

Old Business
Approval of February minutes: Motion made and seconded to approve February minutes. Approved.

Project Unified: Mackenzie has a meeting with Paula Fusco next week to discuss Project Unified. Trecia reports that unified drama has a trainer coming in to hopefully start putting together production for next year.

SibLinks: Still having the issue on how to compensate staff for running a group like SibLinks. Training would cost approximately $2k which Kristal believes we could get covered if we researched grant opportunities. Dr. Lobato advised that another South County district has adopted the SibLinks program which is believed to be Jamestown. Pam advised will be attending conference tomorrow and will check with the Director of Special Ed regarding their logistics to making the program work.

ABA Presentation: Kristal distributed flyer to promote the ABA presentation on 5/19. She has reserved the auditorium at the middle school. WPA has agreed to partner with us to promote the presentation.

New Business - None

Co-Chair Reports - None

Director’s Report
Pam will prepare ahead of time to make sure there are no conflicts with meetings. Medicaid reimbursement has increased from $350k to over $754k since the Department of Pupil Personnel has taken over. Accounting department used to handle. WMS will be making some changes based on discussions held at last WLAC meeting. Pam encourages WLAC to have Paula Fusco back to report back on changes they have made. Ask them back in May.

Transition to 5th grade has become easier. It has been a big focus by Department of Pupil
Personnel. Parents don’t have a say but they try to accommodate parent preference. Concerns were raised that many teachers/teacher assistants’ children are getting on particular teams. Teams should be identified in May so they can prepare but ultimately building principal has the final say.

Update on professional development day on 3/14. Developed a service delivery model. What are responsibilities as professionals? Defining service delivery depends on level of inclusion. What is the purpose of inclusion how do we provide continuum of services? They will be developing a sheet to hear from a parent before you go to an IEP meeting. What do you want for your child? Developed a pamphlet that talks about communication, progress monitoring and scheduling protocol and will be adopted as the district protocol. Concerns were raised on communication with parents when related service does not occur. Becomes an issue when a parent finds out after the fact not to mention Medicaid reimburses for case management when it doesn’t appear to be happening in a lot of cases. Why can’t we develop a standard sheet that goes home with every IEP student which checks off whether a service occurred? Case management roles and responsibilities were discussed at Professional Development.

The amount of children being identified for RTI has gone down from 687 to 488. However, the cost has not.

**Hearing from the Public** - None

**Adjournment**