REGION III NASES MEETING

NOVEMBER 30, 2011

TJ’S – Norfolk

PRESENT: Shelly Skogstad, ESU #1; Tanya Hilligoss, NCECBVI; Theresa Ferg, ESU #2; Frank Hebenstreit, Norfolk Public Schools; Larianne Polk, ESU #7; Jan Curry, ESU #7; Ruth Miller, ESU #8; Jason Harris, Columbus Public Schools; Stuart Clark, ESU #1; Mary Luhr, Norfolk Public Schools; Stacie Hardy, Umo N Ho N Nation Public Schools; Darris Mettler, ESU #8.

Larianne introduced Tanya Hilligoss from NCECBVI. Tanya distributed handouts and discussed upcoming events available to vision staff and students. She indicated that there is a need for more vision staff in the state. Braille Challenge will be held February 29th with registration due December 14. March 22 and 23rd is the Spring Conference for low vision. Cost for Spring Conference is $75. A low vision clinic will be held March 14 & 15 where eye exams will be $144. Both Ophthalmologist and Optometrist will be available for eye exams. Find more information on line.

The NASES group tuned into the Festive Country Christmas Special hosted by NDE.

Stuart Clark reported on the GMS training to be held December 21st in Kearney with web-site at ESU #1. More information will be forthcoming.

Ruth Miller expressed concerns with the Part C being for children birth through age 2. Any child age 3 after August 31st or within 45 days of the child’s 3rd birthday will become Part B. This will reduce the number of children in the Part C category.

Discussion was held on re-evals versus initial evals. If a student is served in Special Education and then dismissed and later is referred, it is again an “Initial Evaluation”.

Alternate Assessment information is due via NSSRS to the state by December 1st.

Larianne reported on the Breakthrough Coach Training being held at ESU #12 January 18 & 19 in Kearney. The sessions on January 18 are for administrators and then on January 19th for administrators along with their assistants.

NDE reported there are 27 new sped teachers in Nebraska. An E-Mentoring program is being developed to help new sped teachers for the first couple of years. This will hopefully be available for the 2011/2012 school year. More information will be coming.

Discussion was held on having psychologists observe students. Parent permission should be obtained prior to any individual student observation.

Discussion was held on wardship and districts responsibilities.

Beginning January 1st, schools need to have submitted their policies for early kindergarten enrollment. Parents can be charged a fee if that is indicated in the policy.

A concern was expressed with the 7-9% reduction in IDEA and the fallout for the 2012/2013 school year.

Next meeting will be 9:00 a.m. January 31, 2012, at TJ’s in Norfolk with the SPED Director’s NDE call at 9:30 a.m.

Jean Bierschenk, Secretary