REGION III NASES MEETING

September 28, 2012

Lifelong Learning Center

Norfolk, NE

Jason Harris called the meeting to order with the following present: Claudia Feehan, Columbus Public; Jason Harris, Columbus Public; Geraldine Erickson, ESU #17; Theresa Ferg, ESU #2; Darus Mettler, ESU #8; Mary Luhr, Norfolk Public Schools; Frank Hebenstreit, Norfolk Public Schools; Jan Curry, ESU #7; Jean Bierschenk, Secretary.

Jason announced that Claudia Feehan will take over the duties of secretary for Region III upon Jean Bierschenk’s retirement in November.

IDEA reimbursements and claims are delayed but will be coming according to Gary Schurman. Any questions regarding reimbursements should be directed to your rep, then Pete or Ron at NDE.

Discussion was held on how preschoolers were being served in private preschool settings. Theresa suggested this be an IEP team decision, but to be sure to include regular peers in least restrictive environments. Service needs consistency across district.

The group broke for the 9:30 SPED Directors call from NDE. The call ended at 10:35. Region III resumed.

Assistive Technology was discussed. When adding Assistive Technology to an IEP, it should never list a specific device – just function.

Funding for 504 is a Student Service function, not SPED. The funding comes from the district’s general fund. No state reimbursement nor grand monies are received by the district. If a student is on a 405, districts can still do a Manifest Determination. Would still need to offer an alternative education site for services. Any accommodations should be listed on NeSA. It was suggested that there should be 504 training so districts across the state are consistent. Attorneys have recommended that SPED Directors never do 504’s.

Considerable discussion was held on the need for paras for extra curricular activities. Again, this should be an IEP Team decision.

A question was raised as to who runs MDT’s if Service Coordinator (B-3), OT or PT which are contracted are the only services a child receives. A Case Manager from the district would be assigned to coordinate the MDT and IEP/IFSP.

Maintenance of Effort worksheet is now due October 19th. It was sent in an e-mail that the due date was October 30th. From the SPED Director’s call today, it was stated the worksheet is due October 19th. Jason sent an e-mail to Pete Biaggio to clarify.

A call was made to Rita Hammitt to clarify the location of services for parochial students. If a student is served at the parochial school, the location is “private”.

Some good news was received regarding Rule 51 in our state-wide Special Education Director's call with NDE this morning.  The issue regarding listing specific people's names on the IEP notification is being changed.  You no longer need to list specific names - only specific positions.  This (Rule 51 update) has not gone through State Board and Attorney General's office -- but never was actually part of Rule 51 to begin with.  This had been an NDE interpretation.  So, from here forward, you only NEED to list the positions of people.

Jean Bierschenk, Secretary