

Minutes
CEC Representative Assembly Meeting
April 7 & 8, 2006
Salt Lake City, Utah

Day One, April 7, 2006

Call to Order and Parliamentary Items

President Jamie Hopkins called the Representative Assembly (RA) to order at 1:15 p.m. and introduced President Elect, Mary Ruth Coleman, Immediate Past President, Jim McCormick, Parliamentarian, Janet Geysler, and Interim Executive Director, Bruce Ramirez.

Monitors for the Assembly meeting were Bill Bogdan, Parthenia Cogdell, Jean Hebel, Diane Johnson, Marcie Brauchie, Kay Wright Rush and Janet Burdick.

Report of Documented Representatives and Alternates

121 representatives or alternates from 71 units were registered, representing a quorum on Friday, April 7; 121 representatives or alternates representing 71 units were registered for Saturday, April 8.

Adoption of Standing Rules

Tammy Mitchell (MB) moved to adopt the Standing Rules. The Standing Rules were adopted as printed.

Adoption of the Agenda

Tammy Mitchell (MB) moved to adopt the agenda, as revised. Lynn Ziraldo (ON) seconded.

Information Items

Necrology

During the past year, CEC was informed of the deaths of the following members. The Assembly observed a moment of silence for these members of the CEC family.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Samuel Ashcroft	TN	Virginia Howes	IA
Margaret Berta	IL	Reginald Jones	CA
Walter Callway	ON	James McGettigan	NJ
Marnie Campbell	KS	Blaine Musselman	OK
Heather Chilvers	NE	Mary Null	ID
Constance Christian	OH	Francis Peter	MA
Denise Davis-Mitchell	GA	Eva Jean Pickening	UT
Adrian Durant	IL	Marie Reilly	NY
Jane Edwards	KY	Gretchen Thorson	FL
Evelyn Ericson	CA	Mary Lou Valley	NJ
Lucille Florence	WI		

Report of the President

In addition to the report included in the agenda, President Hopkins highlighted efforts made this year by the Board of Directors to communicate with members regarding the Council's programs and finances. Hopkins also commented on the continuing leadership of the Council and the successful activities and

services provided during the past year. Hopkins outlined the actions taken during the Board meetings held in the previous days.

President- Elect Report

President- Elect Mary Ruth Coleman reviewed the process the Board has taken for the selection of the next Executive Director of CEC.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Financial Status Report was included in the agenda. Treasurer Stan Dublinske provided a review of the Financial Status Report, which included information on the FY 2004 financial audit, unaudited FY 2005 finances, and FY 2006 Program Plan and Budget. Dublinske introduced Michael Shifflett, CEC Chief Financial Officer.

The Treasurer's Report will be presented for audit.

Management Report – Executive Director

Interim Executive Director, Bruce Ramirez reported on the 2001-2005 Strategic Plan's success. Ramirez reviewed the 2006-2008 Strategic Plan's Focus Areas, including: Recruitment and Retention, Advocacy, Advancement of the Profession, and the Financial/ Organizational Health.

Call for Nominations – Board of Directors

Nominations Committee Chair Jim McCormick reported the Nominations Committee was soliciting nominations for the following positions on the Board of Directors: President Elect, Member-at-Large (3), Member-at-Large Diverse Ethnic and Multicultural Groups (2), and Student Member. Representatives were encouraged to contact committee members with any suggestions or names of potential candidates.

Call for Presentations – 2007 Annual Convention

Margaret McLaughlin, 2007 Annual Convention Program Chair, announced that the Call for Papers was available and urged representatives to submit proposals as well as encouraged colleagues to do so. McLaughlin noted that all papers for the 2007 Convention were being submitted electronically.

Membership Survey Preliminary Report

Linda Marsal reviewed the preliminary results of the Membership Survey. The purpose of the survey is to collect demographics of CEC's members and listen to member's needs and concerns. The final survey report will be available after convention.

Discussion Topics

Enhancing RA Communication, Participation and Processes

Q. How could the Representative Assembly be improved?

- RA Orientation should be changed to before convention.
- Spread RA Discussions out through the year, not just before convention.
- Representatives should have discussions throughout the year, not just the month prior to convention.
- Representative Assembly should be given an online discussion forum to replace the list server.

Evidenced Based Practices

Q. Is it important for CEC to position itself to identify and disseminate Evidence Based Practices in Special Education? Why or why not?

- DR asked CEC to appoint a scientific advisory committee to look at defining evidence based practices; work with Institute for Education Sciences (IES)?
- Should also work with National Research Council
- Ties into CEC goals; members need somewhere to find this information

Q. Are there other criteria in addition to CEC's Division for Research (DR) criteria that should be considered to determine if a practice should be identified evidence based?

- Strongly urge that CEC review DR's criteria and that a new draft document specifically for evidence based practice be developed; DR's document should be refined before it goes any further.
- It isn't enough to revise CEC criteria; need to assist IES to do so as well.

Q. Other Comments and Suggestions – none

Emerging Professional Issues – No issues were brought forth.

Member Needs and Concerns

Division number requirements

Louis Tutt (DVI) presented a letter on behalf of DVI and DPHD requesting the Board consider changing the minimum membership requirements for divisions.

In addition to research-based practices concern was expressed that the convention program also needed to accommodate sessions examining big ideas and future needs.

Jackie Cefalu-David (LA) read a letter from the Louisiana State Superintendent of Education and Louisiana Governor thanking CEC for providing donations and assisting teachers and students during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Recess

President Hopkins declared the Representative Assembly in recess from 4:30 p.m., April 7 until 2:00 p.m., April 8.

Day Two, April 8, 2006

Call to Order and Parliamentary Items

Determination of Quorum

President Hopkins called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m. and announced that a quorum was present.

2006-2008 Strategic Plan

President Hopkins presented the draft CEC Strategic Long-Range Plan for 2006-2008 as revised by the Board earlier in the week.

Nominations to the Nominations Committee

President Hopkins recognized Immediate Past President Jim McCormick to announce the call for nominations to the nominations committee. This year the positions open are Member-at-Large, Member-at-Large Classroom Ranks, and Member-at-Large Diverse Ethnic and Multicultural Groups. McCormick reminded the Representative Assembly that it is their job to identify members for this committee and submit nominations.

iMIS Communities

Richard Mainzer reviewed the new e-Community feature, which will replace the RA List Server. The new system will allow CEC to post resource documents and members to log in to review current and past discussions. Representatives were asked to send their updated email addresses to Betty Reiser.

Discussion Topics

Response To Intervention (RTI)

Q. What policy guidance should CEC develop to assist states, provinces and local school systems to implement RTI effectively?

- RTI could delay the evaluation process and create a backlog of students who may need to be evaluated which could affect the number of special education positions. A recommendation was made for CEC to make a timeline for the RTI process.
- The concept of RTI could also be applied to students exiting special education.
- In order for RTI to be effective, it needs to be based on Evidence Based Practices.
- RTI should never be used to postpone evaluations for Special Education Eligibility.

Q. How can RTI reduce the impact of disproportionality?

- Examine the use of RTI research to determine consistent reduction of disproportionality.
- Clarify whether disproportionality includes gender as well as ethnicity.
- Pay particular attention to gifted and talented students who have disabilities.
- CASE and National Association of State Directors of Special Education are producing a white paper on RTI, which will be shared with general education administrative organizations.

Q. What new knowledge and skills will special educators need to implement RTI effectively? How can CEC support the needed professional development?

- The focus should be on progress monitoring.
- There needs to be focus on communication between general and special educators.

- CEC should collaborate with other national organizations, e.g. Association for Supervisors and Curriculum Development (ASCD).
- There should be a national database of schools employing RTI practices (research available to special educators).

Q. What should be the focus of future research to support the practice of RTI?

- Should look at what other jurisdictions are doing, e.g. Ontario Learning Disabilities, web based learning.
- Attention is focused primarily on elementary; need to increase focus on secondary programs.
- Within RTI there also needs to be a focus on behavior.
- RTI needs to be understood in terms of contextual variables.
- Means of measuring effective outcomes as to evaluation.
- Remember cultural and linguistic diversity when conducting research.
- Strength/Weakness, processing deficit, practical ideas
- Impact on teachers – paperwork, time, etc.
- Post protocols with timelines on the web site.

Q. Other Comments and suggestions?

- Diagnosis is required to receive services.
- The premise that students are receiving varied instruction from highly qualified individuals could be a faulty premise.
- California CEC is involved in a summit on RTI and will develop a White Paper, which will be shared with CEC.
- Documentation and intervention, more streamlined.
- School wide implementation – emphasis on the core curriculum.
- Look at the total child.
- Without consistent definitions, it's hard to implement RTI.
- Use of 15% of the IDEA funding for pre-referral process could translate to fewer dollars for special education.

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Reauthorization

Q. What recommendations for legislative changes should CEC make to Congress in the following areas?

Highly Qualified Teachers –

- Recommend a Small Work Group to develop a single, clear position.
- Encourage reciprocity across the nation; teachers are highly mobile
- All administrators and teachers receive training on positive behavior intervention.
- Attention given to teachers serving the gifted.
- Highly Qualified is limiting contract services.

Multiple measures and growth measures in assessment and accountability -

- Be careful that the benchmarks do not become the ceiling for more capable students.

Alternate and modified assessments based on alternate and modified achievement

- A disconnect between allowable state assessment accommodations and IEP accommodations.
- Consider not only academic performance but also functional performance.

Other comments and Suggestions -

- There should be out of school suspension standards for all students not just special education students.
- CEC should be involved in discussions early and forcefully
- LRE should be maintained.
- Fiscal incentives being given to teachers based on students' progress.
- Taking a test to be Highly Qualified is demoralizing to long-term teachers
- DVI ad hoc committee studying the impact of NCLB on vision teachers in private and public schools.
- Inequality of the situation: special education teachers skills required; what skills do general educators have to deal with kids with disabilities?
- Need funding to lower class size.
- Demoralization of special education teachers; feel less valued, less important.
- Distinguish between highly qualified in the field of special education and highly qualified in content area.
- Students are being required to take assessments that they cannot pass which lowers their self-esteem.
- Government has failed their Annual Yearly Progress (AYP).
- Need to narrow the gap between special ed. and general education.
- Building principal key to AYP.
- More time is spent on testing kids rather than teaching them.
- Charter schools or vouchers are an insult to public education.
- Need to do something about anxiety around the testing system.
- Make a point to go to Congress and let them know what students need.
- AYP could long term be disastrous for special education students with respect to inclusion.

Action Items

Courtesy Resolutions

Shelia Mingo-Jones (DDEL) read the courtesy resolution honoring Reginald L. Jones. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Wendy Ashcroft (TN) read the courtesy resolution honoring Samuel C. Ashcroft. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Citation Resolutions

Kathy Kolan (DCDT) read the courtesy resolution honoring Andrew S. Halpern. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

President Hopkins read the resolution for the 2006 Annual Convention and Expo, which was adopted unanimously.

For the Good of the Order

Public Comment

Hsuying Ward and Eileen Raymond presented a resolution regarding the Council for Exceptional Children's support for human rights for all students. RA discussion ensued.

Member Needs and Concerns

- Representatives noted interest in a division on inclusion
- Favorable comments on the culturally diverse strand and student forums

Formal Recognition by the Chair

President Hopkins presented a Past Presidents pin to Immediate Past President Jim McCormick for his leadership as President of the Council for the past year.

On behalf of the CEC Representative Assembly the Chair thanked the members of the RA Work Group, monitors, online discussion facilitators, and CEC staff.

Distribution of the Evaluation Form

Representatives were encouraged to complete and turn in their evaluations, which are used to enhance future Representative Assembly meetings.

Announcements

Representatives interested in serving on the Work Group were asked to contact the Presiding Officer.

Adjournment

Without objection, the Representative Assembly meeting was adjourned by the Presiding Officer at 4:38 p.m.