



Minutes of TX DCDT Meeting

Held on 3/24/14

Attendees of Skype Meeting: Debbie Wilkes (presiding), Tom Laign, Sharon Rutherford, Carol Huntley

The following items were discussed at the meeting:

1. Notes from the general meeting that was held in February 2014 will be posted on the TX DCDT website
2. We reviewed the survey that was given out to participants of the Transition Conference.
 - *the first two questions on what organizations people belonged to. Debbie was impressed with the number of people who wanted to be added to the email list
 - *Debbie said the number of people who said they attended the TTC was not accurate since some at the conference said they had never attended one.
 - *Sharon felt that the great number who said they were at the CEC conference was because it was in San Antonio.
 - *Debbie noted that there were 9 people who were currently members of CEC, but not DCDT
 - *Sharon said that many of the people she spoke to did not even know what CEC was...as well as not knowing about DCDT
 - *Debbie noted that people noted that they read the CEC publications that were not members. Sharon said that you do not have to be a member to read the publications.
 - *Carol noted that connections made in college for CEC are not being made today, especially by those going through alternative certification programs.
3. Debbie said that she would send an email out to those who expressed interest in getting email from us.
4. Debbie also said that Laura Epperson has to have her membership followed up...since she is the one who won the membership. Sharon gave this information to Cindy to follow up with this.

5. Sharon said that we need to follow up and make note of who won the iPad: Karen Donegan. Both of the winners are from Grapevine Colleyville ISD.
6. Sharon noted that the results of the survey show that members want an active website. Sharon said that we should not reinvent the wheel, but include links to pertinent information.
7. Debbie said she would send out something to those that filled out the survey, thanking them for responding and also connecting them to our website, as well as asking them to join.
8. Sharon said that she posted the information on the Transition in Texas website for the Transition Network and she said that we need to be judicious and include links where they will get the most bang for their buck.
9. Debbie said that it would be good to identify what are the critical links. She also said that people were very interested in what is happening with the bills. Sharon said we maybe need Legislative Updates. Some of that you can link back to TEA where they are posting that on a regular basis.
10. Carol mentioned that Region 13 gave out (slides) that is a concise summary of HB 5. Sharon said there are slides on the TEA website. Carol also mentioned that TASA had a good summary of HB 5 that she had given out the link for here in RRISD. Tom likes the idea of posting links, rather than copying information. Sharon felt that we have to have a link to TEA for HB 5 because it changes regularly.
11. Carol mentioned that ARC of Texas has great information on their website for SB 7.
12. Debbie said after we put these links on, we will want to advertise that we have done that and maybe follow up emails to our members if there has been a change.
13. Responders to the survey also liked online networking and professional chat. And 57% still wanted face-to-face conferences (local/regional face-to-face training and seminars) and online seminars are second to the wanted face-to-face. Sharon said she doesn't think it matters to them the format of the online training and when she worked for the regional center, they posted their online seminars online after the webinar for those that couldn't attend.
14. Sharon said that her perspective is that those things on the laws will come from regional centers, but information on waivers and other information is something that would be good to have in the face-to-face trainings. Carol brought up information on person centered planning and self-determination would be important.....not just students leading their own ARDs, but in how self-determination is taught and promoted.
15. Debbie mentioned that she is on the Government Affairs Committee for the ARC and one of the things they are talking about is a guide for students, written in language that students can understand and use. Carol mentioned that there are a couple of guides out there for students, such as Whose Life is It Anyway and Full Life Ahead, etc. Carol said she would not want us to reinvent the wheel.

16. Sharon said she would said send out the links for the website that she did to everyone. Debbie would like it to be categorized. Carol mentioned that the links on the RRISD page are categorized. Tom mentioned that we need to include information on college readiness. He said that the new TSI assessments for Community College are going to be a real bear. They are getting information that about half of the adult population test in the Adult Literacy component and about half of those who would receive services through the OSD would be in that category as well.

17. Sharon asked if we wanted to try to plan an event. Carol said perhaps we could plan one event that could be in more than one location. Sharon wrote down things about agency services.....where do you find them, how do you access them....how do we teach students how to advocate for themselves.

18. Debbie said perhaps we should find out from Cheryl which TTC sessions were well attended, as an indication of which sessions were desired the most from attendees.

19. Tom said that we should also look at university students who are in education as a market that we could tap.

20. Sharon would not recommend going through AHEAD at this time.

21. Debbie wondered if we did something at the college level and if we made it possible for college students to connect and talk to those who are currently teaching and working in the field. Sharon mentioned accessing the colleges is difficult. Maybe we could work through the OSD offices, because it is hard to connect with colleges and universities. But we do need to find a way to promote CEC and DCDT and through the alternative certification programs. Debbie mentioned that so many of people who are doing alternative certifications are doing them online through private programs. But Sharon said there are not that many....we could connect to them, as there are fewer of them than colleges and universities.

22. Sharon said she personally thinks we need to have a presence at TX CEC. Debbie asked what it costs to have a booth there. Carol mentioned that we didn't have a survey or sign in at the last one. Sharon mentioned that they have posted the call for proposals. Carol mentioned that it seemed a little disorganized at the one she and Cheryl presented at last summer. Sharon mentioned that this is what they dealt with when they were going to the AHEAD conference.

23. Sharon felt that we need to have a presence at both the TX CEC and TAVAC.

Sharon and Debbie can cover TX CEC in Ft. Worth – July 10 to 12

Tom and Carol can cover TAVAC in San Antonio – July 29, 30, 31

24. Sharon said she felt that we need to buy our own felt board instead of borrowing the one from TAMU. Carol said that there are ones that you can purchase (not felt, but display boards) from Office Depot that are inexpensive. Debbie said that we could use our board at both places. Sharon will explore exhibit boards and how much they cost.

25. Sharon brought up the need for all of us to have the most current By-laws. Carol checked and feels that she has the most current one on her computer and will send it out to everyone.

26. Debbie will send an email to those that filled out the survey. She will also send out an email to our members and will send them copies of the survey. Debbie will also check up with Cindy about Laura Epperson, who won the membership. She will also send minutes from the membership meeting in February to Tom and he will post it.

26. Sharon will send Tom a copy of the links that she had from when she worked on the website for region 11. She will also combine the links from the RRISD website before she sends it to Tom.

27. Debbie will let current members know that we will be accepting nominations for 14-15 officers soon. Nominations will be open for a couple of weeks and then voting through the beginning of May. Officers then can be announced before the end of the school year, since the emails that we have for many members are their school emails.

28. Before adjourning the meeting, Debbie said she would send out a Doodle Survey for all of the officers to see when they would like to have the next Skype meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Huntley
Secretary, TX DCDT