

**SIG Meeting at TED (Savannah, GA)  
November, 2017**

Attended by: Ritu Chopra, Denise Uitto, Kent Gerlach, Jaime True Daley, Kristy Probst, Stephanie Morano, Mary Fisher

Virtual attendance: Sarah Douglas, Emily Sobeck,

1. Position Papers or Policy Briefs approved by TED Board
  - a. The TED Board is promoting Policy Briefs through TED and individuals within TED or by Special Interest Groups. The TED Board approved the development of two policy briefs and/or position papers by the Para SIG. Options for these briefs are a one page policy brief and/or a five page paper. **January 1<sup>st</sup>** is the deadline for drafts suggested by the TED Board. TED Board wants policy briefs to reflect research (e.g. Handbook on Research in Special Education by Paul T. Sindelar and Erica D. McCray).
  - b. Infusing Paraeducator Supervision Content in Teacher Education
    - i. Members interested in participating: Sarah Douglas, Virginia Walker, Rob Schulze, Stephanie Morano, Peggy Yates, Caron Westland
    - ii. Content in general education courses & student teaching regarding para supervision
    - iii. How can resources for IHE personnel be available to use in courses?
  - c. Successful Paraeducator to Teacher Pathways
    - i. Members interested in participating: Ritu Chopra, Jamie True Daley, Susanne James, Stephanie Morano, Marilyn Likins
2. Possible policy brief or position paper on training of administrators & their support for the supervision & training of paraeducators
  - a. This issue is being prompted due to legal & ethical issues such as the lack of teacher supervision, lack of training of paraeducators and the parents right to know about who is serving their children
  - b. Kent is currently working with CASE regarding an article on legal and ethical issues
  - c. Sarah wants to support a policy brief or position paper
  - d. Ritu will follow-up with CASE as leadership changed this year and previous leadership was interested in collaboration regarding teacher supervision
3. Paraeducator Survey- update
  1. Geared towards IHE personnel

- a. Are paraeducator topics addressed in teacher preparation program?
  - b. Focus group is the TED membership
  - c. Drafted Paraeducator Survey update by Emily who is chairing the work group developing the survey
  - d. Next steps: Emily will coordinate a work group meeting to revise survey, prepare for Qualtrics, obtain IRB approval, and collect data.
  - e. Ideas: Consider adding 3 questions, one regarding paraeducator to teacher programs. 2- Is there paraeducator content in the textbooks that are being used in teacher preparation programs? 3- Do you have alternative programs for teachers to earn licensure such as paras with bachelor's degrees?
  - f. Karen Voytecky will send out the survey to TED members when we are ready.
4. SIG Constitution – revisions approved by the SIG membership. Need to post this new constitution onto the SIG website
- a. Adjustments to current constitution
    - a. Added newsletter editor, membership chairs, and redefined duties
    - b. SIG membership must be TED member
    - c. Distribution list goes out to other interested parties
5. Paraeducator Caucus
- a. Decided not to pursue this route due to the additional fee as caucus members must pay CEC dues. Doesn't seem feasible to increase membership
6. Membership – how do we increase it?
- a. Ritu has reached out to those presenting paraeducator related topics at TED and attended individual sessions to distribute information and invite participants to join the Para SIG
  - b. List of newly invited members sent to Sarah to include on distribution list and Emily & Kate to send welcome letter & poster session flyer
  - c. Information about Paraeducator SIG was presented at a poster session promoted at TED Opening Reception
  - d. Reason to join the Paraeducator SIG is to distribute relevant information and research to those doing work in paraeducator issues related to the purpose of Para SIG and the duties of SIG members (Network of support for those interested in paraeducator issues, keep updated about research in the field)

- e. Want to increase to increase the voice and importance of paraeducators within the field.
- f. Promote the use of social media (Facebook) to increase awareness/membership (Jaime will to help with development of Facebook page); possibly connect with early career SIG
- g. Suggestion to the Membership Co-Chairs to invite presenters at the CEC Conference to join the SIG
- h. Suggestion to Co-Chairs to reach out to other divisions within CEC to explore networking and interest in para issues; potentially create networking meetings

#### 7. Other

- a. Look into the privatization of paraeducators (a new issue that will complicate supervision and training of paraeducators)
- b. Promote a table session at the 2018 TED conference for a discussion with IHE personnel who have para to teacher programs
- c. Jaime is looking for information to evaluate para skills to give credit for college courses (micro credentials or certificates based on performance standards/assessments)