

NC Driver Education Advisory Committee Meeting - February 18, 2014

Minutes

Members Present – Reggie Flythe – DPI, Connie Sessoms, Don Nail, Don Johnson, Joe Shrader, Derek Graham, Bob Lisson, Roxane Bernard, Chris Oliver, Mark Smith, Arthur Goodwin and Debra Horton

Meeting was called to order at 11:03am by Chair Connie Sessoms, Jr. Don Johnson made a motion to accept the minutes of the November meeting as provided, seconded by Chris Oliver. Motion approved unanimously. Chair Sessoms provided the members an opportunity to briefly introduce themselves and commented, “We are going to do some good things through the work of this committee”.

Nominations were requested for a Vice-Chair. Don Nail, Governor’s Highway Safety Director, was nominated. Debra Horton made a motion to appoint Don as Vice-Chair, seconded by Roxane, approved by acclamation.

Reggie Flythe provided the Driver Education Consultant Report. The Program Evaluation Division has postponed the driver education study a second time. It was rescheduled for tomorrow, February 19; however, we received word two weeks ago that it would be moved again to March at a date to be determined. DPI will have an opportunity to respond to the report and add comments for the record.

DPI and DMV have been collaborating on the possibility of driver education instructors providing a knowledge test given at the end of driver education classrooms, which will count toward licensure at the DMV. The report will be provided to various legislative committees by March 1.

The Driver Education Consultant will collect student, teacher and program data at the end of this fiscal year. It is imperative that all LEAs participate and account for their respective programs. The Driver Education Consultant is planning spring workshops in all regions and will provide information to coordinators at the NCDTSEA Conference in April.

DMV has partnered with Safe Roads Alliance to provide “The Parent’s Supervised Driving Program” to parents of teens going through Graduated Driver Licensing. DMV will provide handbooks to parents when teens go to DMV to obtain a learner’s permit. DPI is recommending that LEA Coordinators share this information with their students and parents and support the effort.

NCDPI Communications says there have been several requests for our meeting audio to be streamed. The SBE board room does have that capability and it would allow interested parties across the state to tune in to the advisory committee meetings to hear what is going on. It is suggested that we consider streaming the meetings from now on.

Chair Sessoms thanked Mr. Flythe for his report and stated that he thought it was a great idea to stream meetings. He asked if any members objected. Hearing none, he directed Mr. Flythe to move forward and contact DPI Communications to provide streaming for DEAC meetings.

DEAC Subcommittee reports on salary and policy were distributed to members prior to the meeting and an overview of the work was provided by Chair Sessoms. He thanked those members of each committee for their participation in their respective conference call meetings and appreciates their efforts in doing the leg work for the advisory committee.

Advisory members reviewed all of the current State Board of Education Driver Education Policies to see if any changes need to be made. Reggie Flythe pointed out several technical changes that are required and the committee had no issue with those. A lot of discussion occurred around proficiency testing and instructor qualifications. A motion was made by Debra Horton to eliminate proficiency testing, but later was withdrawn to allow time to gather more information on how many LEAs may actually be providing it.

Members also discussed the amount of instruction per day and class sizes. There was discussion on aligning SBE policy with current DMV commercial school rules. Don Johnson was asked to send more detailed information to the chair for review and put on the agenda for the May meeting. Driver eligibility and State Automated Driver Licensing System discussions revolved around the 70% passing rate and the LEA requirements for graduation and LEAs being consistent with enforcing the policy.

Ideas to improve parental involvement and whether to require parent meetings were discussed and recommended that the committee think about how we can put that into policy. Don Johnson raised the question about developing procedures to assist with classroom and behind the wheel requirements of students coming into North Carolina from other states.

Chair Sessoms thanked the members for their time and attention. He requested that each member go home, discuss this with other driver education stakeholders and be prepared to make policy recommendations at the May 20th meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Reggie Flythe, DPI Driver Education Consultant