 MINUTES

**Virginia Council of Administrators for Special Education**

**October 21, 2016/Meeting called to order by Dr. Mike Asip**

# **Welcome and Introductions**

Dr. Mike Asip welcomed everyone to the Fall General Business Meeting and introduced the VCASE Executive Committee. Approximately 150 members attended the 2016 fall conference.

# **Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Jessica McClung discussed the minutes that were reviewed and approved from the May, 2016 meeting. In addition, she shared information on accessing both the VCASE webpage and Facebook page. All participants were also encouraged to complete the online conference evaluation form posted on the webpage.

# **President’s Report**

Dr. Mike Asip highlighted some of the VCASE activities this year.

* Dr. Asip thanked the Reed Smith team for their attendance and presentation at the conference as well as the participants present from the Virginia Department of Education.
* Participated in a legislative summit in Alexandria, VA as well as training on national policy such as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), higher education that effects our teacher preparation programs, our early childhood education and funding.
* Advocated for legislative issues on Capitol Hill.
* The VDOE staff and VCASE executive committee representatives co-presented at the NASDSE joint conference with CEC in Milwaukee.
* There is VCASE representation on the CSA and SLAC committees focusing on private day placements, including the volume and cost of these services.
* VCASE has played a pivotal role on the drafting of the proposed regulations for restraint and seclusion and many directors participated in the public panels that were held recently around the Commonwealth.
* Highlights of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) were discussed, including added flexibility in regard to high stakes testing.
* VCASE continues to work closely with the VDOE and values this partnership.
* Dr. Asip stressed the increased use of technology for getting the word out to membership (Facebook, webpage, etc.)
* VCASE continues to work on expanding membership at both the state and national levels.

# **Treasurer’s Report**

Leore Mallory, Treasurer, discussed the current budget and expenses, provided updates on the spring conference finances as well as the financial update for year to date. A motion was made by Beth Dunman, Middlesex, and seconded by Dr. Royal Gurley, Dinwiddie, to approve the financial report for the spring conference, the financial report for year to date, and the proposed budget for 2017. This motion was unanimously approved by the general membership.

* Checking Account Balance- $98,891.79
* Certificate of Deposit/Capitol One- $31,441.14
* Total Assets- $130,332.93

# **Old Business**

Dr. Asip debriefed the membership regarding the spring 2016 conference.

* The Wyndham hotel is the only beach front hotel that can accommodate 375 participants.
* The Executive Committee will review all comments from past conferences to continue to make our conferences a pleasant experience.

# **New Business**

* Region representatives, Aspiring Leaders, new directors and their mentors were recognized.
* Jim Gallagher, Past President, announced that VCASE officer elections will take place at the spring, 2017 conference. Positions open include President Elect, Secretary and Treasurer.

# **Legislative Updates**

Sheila Carr discussed the latest legislative updates.

* House Bill 524 preserves confidentiality of teacher performance data.
* The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was approved by Congress after only 8 months.
* Aspiring Special Education Leaders were recognized.
* House Bill 842 regarding dyslexia will be in effect on July 1, 2016.
* Transgender student access in our schools is another topic being addressed around the Commonwealth.

# **Awards and Recognitions**

* Sandi Thorpe, Harrisonburg, was recognized nationally as CAES’s Gersh Award Winner.

# **Announcements**

* The Spring VCASE Conference will be held May 24 – 26, 2017 in Virginia Beach.