

AD HOC COMMITTEE

November 8, 1975 - 8:30 p.m.

PURPOSE: TO DEVELOP STRATEGIES FOR DESIGNING A SPECIAL FFA PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS SPECIAL NEEDS.

Members Present: Brashears, Harris, Reuwee, Lalum, Rawls, Gray, Sargent, and Nelson.

Paul Gray gave a recap of the situation in regard to the Special Needs, Concerns and some outcomes of efforts that might result in trying to meet the needs of all vo-ag students.

A lively discussion followed that brought out additional problems in meeting these needs; but also pointing out that FFA as an integral part of the vo-ag program is doing some very helpful things in different states and local departments.

It was pointed out:

1. Students have needs to provide more individualized instruction.
2. Funding is available for special needs but we are not taking enough advantage of it.
3. Different areas of the country have different kinds of problems and needs to help the special needs.
4. Some states have special projects in this area. (North Dakota, Minnesota and others).
5. Programs we have already can help if focused in the right direction example BOAC - community assessment; involvement in basic adult education; the migrant workers, etc. Need for teachers that can be trained to work in special needs. Funding of NFA from the Foundation was allocated at \$22,815 when operating separate from the FFA and used for incentive awards.
6. Many teachers are carrying too heavy student load to do the job as fully as in years' past..
7. Some teachers need help in better understanding the total job of a vo-ag instructor; and teacher training programs could help.
8. Participation in the National Convention is not a true picture of participation of the special needs - much is going on in certain states.

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9. Any newly developed programs must be open to all students.
10. Help in this area can come from: The buddy system; special summer camps; Washington Leadership Conference; FFA Alumni; NVATA; and the new student FFA handbook.

It was agreed on a good job being done but there is work to be done to do a better job; it was recommended the Program Division focus on the following and report at our January meeting of the Board:

1. Find out what is going on in the states; assemble; and work towards dissemination nationwide.
2. Investigate how to apply for and use the Federal Special Needs Funds. Publicity thru NVATA and National FFA Magazine.
3. Find out what teacher educators are doing in training teachers in Special Needs.
4. Follow up on the Achievement Award Program nationwide.
5. Look at "Standards" for teachers, and their attitudes with FFA as an integral part of the instruction.
6. Look to funding of teachers and others who can follow-up on successful projects in Special Needs to be made available to others.

There is much good work being done already, but it needs to be assembled, reviewed, and provided to all states. This is the job that needs doing now.

Respectfully submitted,

Art Nelson