

# Special Education Advisory Committee

## MEETING MINUTES

October 6, 2016, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
4039 Legacy Parkway, Lansing, Michigan

### **Participation**

#### Delegates Present:

Lisa Azzou, Amy Barto, Jim Corr, Michel DeJulian, Robert Dickinson, Latika Fenderson, Jill Fennessy, Terri Henrizi, Nancy Jaskiw, Maggie Kolk, Andy Kowalczyk, Craig McCalla, Nicole Miller, Wendy Minor, Caryn Pack Ivey, Sara Park, John Patterson, Teri Pettit, Amy Sanderson, Anne-Marie Sladewski, Mark Smith, Nancy Spanski, Lori Tavgigian, William Young

#### Alternates Present:

Melisa Burch for Anna Dusbiber

#### Ex-Officio Present:

LaQuita Featherstone, Janet Kaley, Amy Schelling\*, James Thomas

#### MDE Staff Present:

Ashley Kemmer, Deb Maurer, Jan Weckstein for Teri Chapman, Joanne Winkelman

#### Facilitator:

Fran Loose

#### Guests Present:

Laura Griffith, Debra Houde, Ann Rossi, Holly Sasso

\*Participated via phone.

### **Minutes**

#### I. Call to Order

Chairperson Maggie Kolk called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. Roll Call

The SEAC Secretary, Deb Maurer, read the roll call. A quorum was present.

III. Introduction of Guests

Guests were introduced.

IV. Approval of Proposed Agenda

Jim Corr moved, seconded by Wendy Minor that the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the October 6, 2016 amended agenda. The vote was taken on the motion. Motion carried.

V. Approval of June 1, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Nancy Jaskiw moved, seconded by Nicole Miller that the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the June 1, 2016 minutes. The vote was taken on the motion. Motion carried.

VI. Chairperson's Report

A. Today's focus

- a. Challenging Behavior Sub-Committee co-chairs Maggie Kolk and Amy Schelling presented a preview of the Sub-Committee presentation scheduled for the State Board of Education on November 15. They will share the document produced by the SEAC during the 2015-2016 school year. SEAC members raised a variety of issues and suggestions, including:

- i. The importance of addressing mental health issues in school.
- ii. Alignment between this work and the social/emotional standards that the SBE will review this year.
- iii. Encouragement of the State Board to ask for more funding for PBIS training.

- b. Special Welcome to Jan Weckstein, Assistant Director for the Office of Special Education.

B. Report from Executive Committee Meeting

- a. Summary of Retreat Survey/Evaluation: The survey provided positive feedback about the opportunity to get to know this year's members and to learn about this year's work. Members are looking for more information on ESSA and challenging behavior. Members would like support for sharing information learned at SEAC to their organizations. This new Take Away closing activity was forecast as a mechanism to address this.
- b. Membership Changes: Maggie Kolk identified the resignation of Kim Witt from the SEAC and the current delegate vacancy for the Autism Society of Michigan.
- c. Potential Membership Committee: Maggie Kolk explained the Executive Committee's interest in establishing a membership committee they would assist organizations with recruitment, particularly when they were scheduled to have a defined member represent them. A sign up list was circulated.
- d. Norms: Maggie Kolk shared the following synthesis of the norms proposed during the retreat. SEAC members adopted these for the 2016-2017 school year.
  - i. Listen attentively and respectfully, assuming positive intent.
  - ii. Engage respectfully before, throughout, and after the meetings.
  - iii. Be objective: non-judgmental, fact-focused.

C. Defined Member Rotation

- a. Facilitator Fran Loose explained SEAC's current status in meeting the IDEA requirement for at least 51% of members being persons with disabilities or parents of children

receiving special education. She also explained the Executive Committee's rotation schedule among organizations to meet both the federal requirement and the SEAC bylaws. The Executive Committee plan to fill existing vacancies and appoint 2017-2018 members should ensure that the SEAC will meet the 51% requirement.

VII. Public Comment

- a. None presented.

VIII. MDE, Office of Special Education Report by Jan Weckstein for Teri Chapman

A. Federal Updates

- a. Teri Chapman, Jan Weckstein, Joanne Winkelman and Jessica Brady recently returned from the National Association of State Directors of Special Education/Council of Administrators of Special Education (NASDSE/CASE) Annual Business Meeting and Conference. This is the first time the two have been combined.
- b. **OSEP** sent out 2 Dear Colleague letters in August that pertain to Behavior and Discipline and Students with Disabilities in virtual schools.
- c. **NASDSE's** view is that IDEA reauthorization will be at the end of 2017.
- d. Initial activity is:
  - i. Higher Education
  - ii. Carl Perkins Grant
- e. New Administration will begin January 20, 2017. There may be a new Secretary of Education and Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Director.
- f. **Ruth Ryder**, Deputy Director of the Office of Special Education Programs, noted several Big Issues
  - i. Dispute Resolution
  - ii. Paperwork reduction
  - iii. Funding Formula for 619 and 611
  - iv. Fiscal

- v. ESSA
- vi. Child Find Part C
- vii. Correctional Education Part B
- viii. State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) Phase 3
- ix. Two new ESSA funded Technical Assistance Centers
- g. The NASDSE Conference Keynote speaker was John B. King, Jr., Secretary to the U.S. Department of Education.

B. MDE Updates

- a. Jennifer Huisken LaPointe is now the Director of the Indigenous Education Initiative. She will also continue working on the SSIP.
- b. Teri will present at the national PBIS Leadership Conference in Chicago on October 26-28.
- c. Stakeholder engagement continues.

C. OSE Updates

- a. Michigan School for the Deaf has a new principal, Natalie Grupido.
- b. Jan Weckstein is now working with the Grant Funded Initiatives.

IX. Due Process Report

- A. Joanne Winkelman reported final year case totals for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016. There is a recently completed case that should be ready for discussion in November.

X. State Board of Education Report

- A. In addition to the November presentation preview described above, Fran Loose shared information on suspension and expulsion guidelines by the State Board of Education. This information is on the State Board of Education website and can serve as a resource to the SEAC Challenging Behavior work.

XI. SEAC Organizations' Reports regarding communication information to/from SEAC relative to SEAC's three annual priorities

- A. Nancy Jaskiw, Michigan Reading Association (MRA), MRA works to assure that every student succeeds through active involvement, and partnerships with school district, agencies, and families to promote literacy throughout

Michigan from birth, and across the lifespan. SEAC members can participate in the many offerings that MRA makes available to educators, families and students.

- B. Caryn Pack Ivey, Michigan Alliance for Families (MAF), MAF offers learning opportunities on Positive Behavior Support. MAF needs to fully understand IDEA in ESSA in order to accurately inform parents of children with disabilities. SEAC members could direct families to MAF website and to 800-552-4821 to reach the regional parent mentor in their community, so families will know their child's and their own rights and options when challenging behavior is an issue. Also, SEAC members could inform SEAC of the concerns of the families they serve which would help inform MAF what learning opportunities to offer. Each county is served by a parent mentor, although there is not a mentor resident in each county per limited funds. MAF provides trainings and webinars.

XII. SEAC Ex-Officio Agency Reports regarding communication information to/from SEAC relative to SEAC's three annual priorities

- A. MDE Office of Public and Governmental Affairs, Legislative Liaison Report Caroline Liethen. No report was given. The Legislature is currently on break until after Election Day.
- B. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Community Health Foster Care Janet Kaley. There are many students with IEPs in foster care. These students tend to move and change school often, which causes them to fall behind their peers. It is important that CA-60s are transferred promptly for these students. Some foster care parents and biological parents don't understand their rights to have an IEP, including the rights they have when it comes to a student with an IEP getting expelled or suspended. Both foster care parents and biological parents should be invited to IEPs. There are education resources for older youth in foster care to assist with college.

XIII. Grounding Assumptions

SEAC Executive Committee Members facilitated group discussion to identify a set of core common beliefs about what is critical for special education to be

effective in 2016 that can guide SEAC's advisory work. This is modeled on NASDSE's national stakeholder work and MAASE's 2015-2016 work.

- A. Fran Loose will compile the ideas and the SEAC will move to the next step of identifying discrepancies between priority beliefs and level of implementation of those beliefs in Michigan schools.

XIV. Sub-Committee Report

- A. Bylaws Committee report by Chairperson Maggie Kolk. The Bylaws Committee proposed an amendment to the Bylaws that will allow the Executive Committee to amend the SEAC Procedures by a majority vote. The SEAC will vote on this amendment in November.
- B. The committee also discussed the concept of having one alternate for the group of members-at-large, making that representation more similar to organizational delegates. They sought preliminary input from the SEAC about whether to continue looking into this matter. There was support from SEAC to do so.

XV. Member Announcements, Questions, Comments

- A. Members suggested consideration of the following topics as unmet needs: assistive technology, secondary transition service efficacy for students older than 18, and students affected by trauma.
- B. Jim Corr informed members they can go to the Michigan Association of School Psychologists website for upcoming conferences.

XVI. Looking back & ahead – Meeting Take-Aways

- A. SEAC members identified key highlights this meeting.
  - a. National IDEA/OSE Updates
  - b. PBIS in charter schools
  - c. Organizational sharing on behalf of improved student results
- B. Members were encouraged to contact their national organizations re: MTSS as well as to consider the needs of students in foster care and highly mobile students.

C. Chairperson Maggie Kolk reminded members to fill out the online survey that is received electronically this afternoon.

D. November Agenda Forecast

- a. Meeting is first Wednesday, November 2, at the Okemos Conference Center in the Holiday Inn Express Conference Room.
- b. Consider what sub-committee you want to be on.

XVII. Adjournment

A. The meeting adjourned at 2:50