

Special Education Advisory Committee

MEETING MINUTES

November 2, 2016, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
2187 University Park Drive, Okemos, Michigan

Participation

Delegates Present:

Lisa Azzou, Amy Barto, Heather Bird, Jim Corr, Robert Dickinson, Anna Dusbiber, Terri Henrizi, Nancy Jaskiw, Maggie Kolk, Andy Kowalczyk, Kathy Krause, Craig McCalla, Nicole Miller, Wendy Minor, Denyeal Nesovski, Caryn Pack Ivey, Sara Park, *John Patterson, Teri Pettit, Heidi Ransom, Amy Sanderson, Anne-Marie Sladewski, Mark Smith, Nancy Spanski, Lori Tavgigian, Amy Trahey, William Young

Alternates Present:

Tom Greene for Steven Stoner, *Deborah Kadish for Ronna Steel

Ex-Officio Present:

LaQuita Featherstone, Janet Kaley, Amy Schelling, James Thomas

MDE Staff Present:

Ashley Kemmer, Deb Maurer, Joanne Winkelman

Facilitator:

Fran Loose

Guests Present:

Tedra Allen, Belle Bodell, Traci Brown, Michelle Driscoll, Laura Griffith, Courtney Halbower, Katherine Mills, Debbie Rock, Holly Sasso

*Participated via telephone.

Minutes

- I. Call to Order

Chairperson Maggie Kolk called the meeting to order at 10:05 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

Tom Greene moved, seconded by Sara Park that the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the November 2, 2016 amended agenda. The vote was taken on the motion. Motion carried.

V. Approval of October 6, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Nancy Jaskiw moved, seconded by Kathy Krause that the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the October 6, 2016 minutes. The vote was taken on the motion. Motion carried.

VI. Chairperson's Report – Maggie Kolk

A. Today's focus

a. Information items

i. Membership approval for members new since the May State Board of Education Meeting will go to the State Board of Education on December 13, 2016 for approval.

ii. There are two organizations and one state agency updates to be given today.

b. Action Item: The SEAC will vote this afternoon on an amendment to the Bylaws.

c. Special Welcomes

- i. Laura Taylor from Alt+Shift will provide a ZOOM presentation this morning on assistive technology.
- ii. Joanne Cashman from the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE) may be on the telephone this afternoon to help explain the Grounding Assumptions work.
- iii. Heidi Ransom, proposed member-at-large
- iv. Amy Trahey, proposed Autism Society of Michigan delegate

B. Report from Executive Committee Meeting

- a. In January the SEAC will receive Google Docs Training. This will be hands on and all members are asked to bring their laptop or tablet.
- b. A membership committee is being formed to help recruit new members as turnover occurs. Fran Loose invited anyone interested in being on this committee to contact her.
- c. Summary of previous meeting's Survey/Evaluation: Based on the request to receive all materials, such as the PowerPoint in advance, all draft materials will be sent. Also, Maggie Kolk clarified that it is permissible to share all SEAC materials with others. They are all in the public domain.

C. Norms Reminder

- a. Listen attentively and respectfully assuming positive intent.
- b. Engage respectfully before, throughout and after the meetings.
- c. Be objective: non-judgmental, fact-focused.

VII. Public Comment

- a. None presented.

VIII. MDE, Office of Special Education Report by Joanne Winkelman for Teri Chapman

A. Federal Updates

- a. The ESSA Parent Survey is available and can be shared with any parent network.
- b. Venessa Kessler will be attending SEAC in December to speak about the ESSA.
- c. Teri Chapman and Jan Weckstein continue to visit the Michigan School for the Deaf on a monthly basis to review staffing and programs. There is continued discussion regarding a need for certified interpreters and certified staff.
- d. Available members of the Governor's Task Force have been meeting twice monthly to continue to address the recommendations that resulted from the initial task force work. This includes: due process hearings, mediation and state complaint investigations.
- e. Public Sector Consultant (PSC) has released a special education survey. The survey is looking for suggestions for improvement in the Michigan special education system. The survey deadline is November 18, 2016.
- f. PSC will begin small stakeholder group discussion regarding the MDE accountability system Continuous Improvement Monitoring System (CIMS). The new system will need to support the more complex work the state and Intermediate School Districts will be doing to address the need for Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). The stakeholder groups will continue through January. PSC will compile the information into a report and submit it to the MDE.
- g. Office Staff are busy attending conferences. Teri Chapman presented along with Steve Goodman, director of MiBLSi and Debra Gay, Special Education Director for Georgia, at the National PBIS Conference in October. Jan Weckstein is presenting today, November 2, at the Michigan Association of Rehabilitation Organizations (MARO). Teri Chapman, John Andrejack and Scott Kemmer-Slater are presenting at the Office of Special Education Programs Fiscal Forum on November 3.

- iii. There continues to be a moratorium on school closures in Wayne RESA and Detroit.
- iv. Special Education Complaint Process was mentioned by stakeholders. There was no new information provided beyond what is available statewide.

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

- A. Laquita Featherstone and Belle Bodell, Michigan Department of Corrections (DOC), identified that DOC's top priority is to meet Federal IDEA requirements for the population that they serve. They continue to reduce behavior related suspensions and continue to work to effectively deal with classroom misconduct. DOC will continue to adhere to Federal guidelines in serving prisoners up to age 22. They are accountable to the federal age 22 requirement. SEAC could help by providing information regarding any changes in guidelines or requirements, strategies and best practices for writing effective behavior plans and keep DOC informed on ESSA and IDEA requirements.
- B. Mark Smith, Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning (MACUL), MACUL supports their membership with compliance conversations around technology. It is a leading resource on assistive technology options and provides updates to help meet student needs. Special Interest Group, INC (SIG-INC) membership has resources and PD around technology as a support to alternative learning methods/behaviors. They provide advocacy for technology in learning as it relates to the well-rounded student provisions in the ESSA, and reinforce MTSS behavior supports through technology or integrated learning behaviors.
- C. Teri Pettit, Michigan Association of Public School Academies (MAPSA), MAPSA sees a lack of understanding of financial streams for special education and county plans among PSA personnel. Because the typical Public School Academy (PSA) does not have access to a central office, there are often pressing issues to deal with that cause conflicting

priorities. Funding inequity affects turnover of staff leading to inconsistencies in serving students. There is an issue of special education funding and resources following the student even when they cross ISD lines. SEAC members could reach out to charter schools to let them know what your organization can do for them. Then following up with the PSAs to assure the right person received the information. Do the charter schools have a seat at your organizational table?

XII. SEAC Ex-Officio Legislative Agency Report

A. MDE Office of Public and Governmental Affairs, Legislative Liaison Report by Caroline Liethen

- a. Beginning on November 9, 2016 both the House and Senate will be in lame-duck session.
- b. Bills introduced during the 2015-2016 legislative session that aren't acted on before the legislature adjourns for the year will die and must be reintroduced if they are to be addressed.
- c. Seclusion and Restraint in Schools House Bills 5409-18 were reported from the House Education Committee on September 22, and placed on the order of Second Reading in the House.
- d. Special Education Employment Preference House Bill 5796 was introduced and would repeal Section 1766 of the Revised School Code. Currently placed on the house agenda for November 10.
- e. IEP Ombudsman Senate Bill 1103 and House Bill 5942. This would create the Office of the IEP Ombudsman in the MDE within the Office of Special Education.
- f. Special Needs Transportation House Bill 5957 was referred to the House Education Committee. This would permit a sibling of a student with a disability to accompany that student on a bus designated for children with special needs if they meet the criteria.
- g. Deaf, Deafblind, and Hard-of-Hearing Children's Education Bill of Rights House Bill 6006 and Senate Bill 1143 have both been referred

to their respective committees. It is believed that no action will be taken during lame-duck.

- h. Language Developmental Milestones and Assessment House Bill 6005 and Senate Bill 1133 have been referred to their respective committees. It's believe that no action will be taken during lame-duck.
- i. Schools of Choice Senate Bill 1121 was referred to the Senate Education Committee. The bill would strike the provision requiring an agreement between ISDs in order for special education pupils to participate in schools of choice outside of their resident ISD.

XIII. Grounding Assumptions: What is important to having special education be effective in 2016?

- A. Fran Loose began the work around grounding assumptions by asking:
 - a. SEAC members to work in small groups refining the October statements.
- B. Delegates to vote, using voting machine software, to rate importance and perceived state level of implementation of each assumption on a scale from 1-10. It was determined that in general the importance of each was high (8-10), however, implementation was lower, averaging around 5. The voting software will generate a report that will be sent to SEAC members.
 - a. Following review, two items require a re-vote for clarification. Then the resulting Grounding Assumptions will be used for communication with SEAC constituents and SEAC document development.

XIV. Sub-Committee Report

- A. Action Item: VII. Amendment of Bylaws, A. Procedure, new #3: It was recommended that the new procedure reads as: "To amend SEAC procedures requires a majority vote of the Executive Committee Members." A roll-call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous in favor of the recommendation.

- B. The Bylaws Committee proposed changing the title of the Bylaws for clarity and changing the reference to Meeting Summary to Minutes per OSEP's requirement for Minutes. These will be voted on in December.
- C. The scope of work for those interested in being on the Membership Committee consists of: helping with current vacancies, begin recruiting, looking at parts of the state and demographics not represented. The committee looks to begin in December or January with a possible conference call.

XV. Member Announcements, Questions, Comments

- A. Members made several announcements
 - a. Michigan Council for Exceptional Children is looking for nominations for students, parents, teachers and others for their Honors & Awards recognition. They are due in December.
 - b. Amy Trahey invited members to the Autism Society Conference next week at the Okemos Conference Center.
 - c. Mark Smith informed the SEAC about a Website Accessible Conference on December 2 at MSU. The conference is free.
 - d. The Learning Disabilities Association of America Conference will take place in Baltimore in February. There are scholarships available for teachers.
 - e. Nancy Spanski reminded the group about an inclusion conference on November 5.

XVI. Looking back & ahead – Meeting Take-Aways

- A. SEAC members identified key highlights this meeting.
 - a. Legislative liaison report was informative.
 - b. Final Due Process Decisions are on the MDE website.
- B. Members identified the following "To Do" items.
 - a. Participant in the PSC survey by November 11.
 - b. Participation in the ESSA survey by November 18.
 - c. Share AT learning with constituents.

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

D. December Agenda Forecast

a. Federal IDEA grant requirements Committee

b. Challenging Behavior Committee

c. IDEA in the ESSA update

XVII. Adjournment

A. The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.