

Special Education Advisory Committee

MEETING MINUTES

December 7, 2016, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
4039 Legacy Parkway, Lansing, Michigan

Participation

Delegates Present:

Amy Barto, Heather Bird, Jim Corr, Michel DeJulian, Robert Dickinson, Anna Dusbiber, Latika Fenderson, Jill Fennessy, *Terri Henrizi, *Nancy Jaskiw, Maggie Kolk, Kathy Krause, Nicole Miller, *Denyeal Nesovski, Caryn Pack Ivey, Sara Park, John Patterson, Teri Pettit, Heidi Ransom, Anne-Marie Sladewski, Nancy Spanski, Ronna Steel, Steven Stoner, Lori Tavgian, David Tebo, Amy Trahey, William Young

Alternates Present:

Laura Griffith for Mark Smith, Connie Marks for Laquita Featherstone

Ex-Officio Present:

Amy Schelling, James Thomas

MDE Staff Present:

Teri Chapman, Ashley Kemmer, Deb Maurer, Joanne Winkelman

Facilitator:

*Fran Loose

Guests Present:

Melisa Burch, Michelle Driscoll, Tom Greene, Courtney Halbower, Debra Houde, Lois Lofton-Doniver, Katherine Mills, 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

Tom Greene moved, seconded by Robert Dickinson that the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the December 7, 2016 agenda. The vote was taken on the motion. Motion carried.

V. Approval of November 2, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Heather Bird moved, seconded by William Young that the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the November 2, 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. There will be no January 4, 2017 SEAC meeting
- ii. There are two organizations and one state agency updates to be given today.

b. Action: The SEAC will vote this afternoon on amendments to the Bylaws.

c. Special Welcomes

- i. Venessa Keesler, Michigan Department of Education Deputy Superintendent will provide an Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Update.
- ii. Joanne Cashman from the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE) will be

on the telephone this afternoon to explain the Grounding Assumptions work.

B. Report from Executive Committee Meeting

- a. In February the SEAC will receive Google Docs Training. This will be hands on and all members are asked to bring their laptop or tablet.
- b. The Executive Committee will take on the role of serving as a resource to recruiting replacement members for the 2017-2018 SEAC year. Ronna Steel is the contact if members have thoughts and ideas. Attention will be paid to diversity and to assuring that SEAC meets its 51% Defined Member requirement.
- c. Summary of previous meeting's Survey/Evaluation: Members were reminded that if they need to leave the room or get up to get a beverage they are free to do so. Once we move to Google Docs all notebook material will be available in one place electronically. Joanne Cashman will provide understanding national perspective of how to implement Grounding Assumptions this afternoon.

C. Norms Reminder: SEAC members commit to:

- 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. Due Process Hearing Report Received – Joanne Winkelman – From July 1, 2016 – November 15, 2016 there were 21 Due Process Complaints, 4 Expedited Due Process Complaints, 12 Dismissal/Withdraws and 9 Pending Due Process Complaints. There was a short discussion regarding a due process case that was filed and child is deceased. The case was dismissed by

Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) because there is no remedy for the child since the child is deceased. A complaint can be investigated because the district may have remedies that would impact other children, even if the child identified in the specific complaint dies.

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

- A. Steve Stoner, Michigan Education Association (MEA) – Steve is a member representing the Port Huron Schools. He is not an MEA employee. The MEA is the largest teacher organization in Michigan. The report was submitted before the election, therefore, some of the concerns changed. They continue to work on the process to certify special education teachers, complete teacher evaluations, address lack of funding and resources for students and teachers and attacks on public education.
- B. Anna Dusbiber, Michigan Transition Services Association (MTSA) – The MTSA works to identify and support areas of special concern (SPP-B13) in the field of transition, working collaboratively with Transition Stakeholders. Transition Related Providers and families understand the need to address “where students are, what they want to do with their futures and assist students in planning to make their goals a reality.” What the SEAC can do to help would be to attend the “Bring-a-guest to the January 13, 2017 MTSA Board Meeting. Share your knowledge to assist MTSA in keeping abreast of alternative supports, issues and related topics and attend a Transition Issues Meeting.
- C. James Thomas, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) – There used to be 13 facilities now there are two facilities, Bay Pines in Escanaba and Shawono in Grayling. The facilities are for adjudicated youth who have committed crimes including underage drinking, curfew violations, assault, robbery, gang violence, drugs and murder. The juvenile programs provide individualized and appropriate instruction that will maximize the potential of each student. MDHHS believes that continuous improvement is necessary for organizational

growth and that educating youth is the responsibility of the entire State. Making decisions together creates a shared commitment and being responsive to student needs will promote learning. Students in the juvenile program can receive diplomas, GED, Post-Secondary enrollment, Educational Development Plans (EDP) or an Individualized Education Program (IEP). The main funding for MDHHS is through the, Title I and IDEA federal grants.

X. Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) – Venessa Keesler

- A. After the election states are unsure what will happen but Michigan is going ahead with work on their plan so that it's ready in January.
- B. The ESSA work goes back to the Top 10 in 10 for alignment in Michigan.
- C. MDE is pushing toward finalizing the plan but will continue to receive feedback and can adjust the plan at any time. The MDE would like to go back to groups, including SEAC, to receive feedback on the plan that is submitted. Public Sector Consultants will help with this.
- D. There was discussion on ranking schools on test scores. Many issues may need to be reviewed beyond test scores: teacher and school administrator longevity, student chronic absenteeism, completion and passing of advanced college and career coursework.
- E. The final plan is scheduled to be submitted in March, 2017.
- F. The plan should be fully operational in the 2018-2019 school year.
- G. There were questions that will be developed by MDE and forwarded to SEAC members for feedback to the plan before the January deadline.

XI. SEAC Ex-Officio Agency Report

- A. MDE Office of Public and Governmental Affairs, Legislative Liaison Report – Joanne Winkelman for Caroline Liethen
 - a. Lame duck is upon us and will continue for 2-3 weeks. All bills introduced during the 2015-2016 legislative session not passed by the end of the year will die and must be reintroduced during the next legislative session (2017-18) for action.

- b. As of filing this report the seclusion and restraint legislation (HB 5409-5418) is on the 2nd reading on the House floor. SEAC member Caryn Pack Ivey stated that she received notification that the House would vote on the bill today.
- c. The removal for preference in certain special education hiring (HB 5796) has been transmitted to the Senate. It was on the Senate Education Committee agenda for December 6.

XII. MDE Office of Special Education Report – Teri Chapman

A. United States Department of Education (USED) – Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)

a. Federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) regulations:

- i. Implement the accountability
- ii. Data Reporting
- iii. State plan provisions of the ESSA, states in using flexibility to provide a high-quality, well-rounded education and ensure equity remain at the core of implementation.
- iv. The regulations will help states, districts and educators ensure a high-quality, well-rounded education that sets every student, including students with disabilities, up for success in college and career.
- v. The USED announced the release of new guides and resources to help justice-involved youth transition back to traditional school settings. The resource includes: a guide written for incarcerated youth; an updated transition toolkit and resource guide.

B. ESSA Guidance

- a. Non-regulatory guidance on supporting early learning through the ESSA.
 - i. Helps to ensure young children from birth through third-grade get the strong start they need to achieve success.

- ii. Highlights how agencies can: expand access to high-quality early learning opportunities; encourage alignment and collaboration of early learning programs.
- C. President-Elect Trump nominated Betsy DeVos for Secretary of Education
- D. Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education
 - a. The supplemental document includes related Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) federal regulations. The rules meet accessibility standards and can be found at the [MDE, OSE website](https://www.michigan.gov/ose-eis) (<https://www.michigan.gov/ose-eis>).
- E. OSE is conducting a website usability study in an effort to better organize the information on its website.
 - a. The study looks to understand how these topics currently exist on the MDE website. The study is open until December 21, 2016. [Website usability study](https://52ca1eb.optimalworkshop.com/treejack/mde-2016-12). (<https://52ca1eb.optimalworkshop.com/treejack/mde-2016-12>)
- F. OSE Clarification
 - a. If the State chooses to utilize an alternative dispute resolution process, the State must establish a process that uses a disinterested party who is under contract with an appropriate alternative dispute resolution entity, or a parent training and information center or community parent resource center in the State.
 - b. Mediation is the only “formal” dispute resolution process that can allow a state complaint investigation to be set aside as long as Both parties agree to mediation.
- G. OSE Regional Leadership Meetings
 - a. Region 3 was held on November 18, 2016
 - b. Region 2 will be held on January 6, 2017
 - c. Region 1a will be held on January 20, 2017
 - d. Regions 1 and 5 To be determined

- H. The Special Education Stakeholder Survey has closed and Public Sector Consultants is now scheduling additional phone calls and face-to-face meetings to obtain further input. The final report will be made public upon its completion.
 - I. The Options for the Draft State Complaint Investigation Process was presented. The document will be sent electronically to SEAC members with a request for feedback to the OSE.
- XIII. State Board of Education November Meeting Report – Teri Chapman, Maggie Kolk and Amy Schelling
- A. The presentation given to the SEAC in November was presented to the State Board on November 15. The State Board was very receptive and had several questions for the SEAC. The Challenging Behavior Committee will begin in February to answer the questions.
- XIV. Grounding Assumptions – Joanne Cashman
- A. Ms. Cashman clarified the fit of SEAC’s work in the national initiative. Grounding Assumptions are designed to change things for all students. Reviewing the implementation graph SEAC’s perception data will help SEAC focus on communications with the State Board and MDE.
 - B. Groups have used Grounding Assumptions as they try to initiate new ideas. Discussion followed on how Virginia used Grounding Assumptions to go collaborate across agencies.
 - C. Delegates voted using voting machine software for Assumptions number three and six that were reworded after the November meeting to make more clear what the SEAC is looking for.
- XV. Sub-Committee Report
- A. Bylaws – Joanne Winkelman for Heather Bird
 - a. Vote on amendments were tabled as there was not a quorum at the time voting took place. It was decided that an electronic vote would be set up with the Center for Educational Networking for delegates to vote. The voting link will be sent no later than December 16.
- XVI. Member Announcements, Questions, Comments

A. There were no member announcements, questions or comments presented.

XVII. Looking back and ahead – Meeting Take-Aways

A. SEAC members identified key highlights this meeting.

- a. Teri's state complaint discussion.
- b. Joanne Cashman explaining Grounding Assumptions was helpful.
- c. Good to hear Teri say that ESSA is asking for stakeholder input and working together and Venessa's comments that MDE is taking it slow and getting it right.

B. Members identified the following "To-Do" items

- a. Share the ESSA Link and questions from Venessa Keesler.
- b. Share complaint feedback document and questions.

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

D. Reminder that the January 4 meeting is cancelled.

E. February forecast

- a. Google Doc training – bring tablet or laptop
- b. Challenging Behavior Committee
- c. Assistive Technology Committee

XVIII. Adjournment

A. The meeting adjourned at 2:50