

# Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

## MEETING MINUTES

February 1, 2017, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
4039 Legacy Parkway, Lansing, Michigan

### **Participation**

#### Delegates Present:

Heather Bird\*, Jim Corr, Latika Fenderson, Jill Fennessy, Terri Henrizi, Nancy Jaskiw, Maggie Kolk\*, Andy Kowalczyk\*, Kathy Krause, Craig McCalla, Nicole Miller, Wendy Minor, Caryn Pack Ivey, Sara Park, John Patterson, Teri Pettit, Heidi Ransom, Anne-Marie Sladewski, Mark Smith, Nancy Spanski, Lori Tavgigian, David Tebo, Amy Trahey, William Young

#### Alternates Present:

Teri Metros for Michel DeJulian

#### Ex-Officio Present:

Amy Schelling, Cynthia Wright

#### MDE Staff Present:

Teri Chapman, Ashley Kemmer, Deb Maurer, Dedra McGlory, Lynsey Welmers, Joanne Winkelman

#### Facilitator:

Fran Loose

#### Guests Present:

Traci Brown, Tina Cole, Michelle Driscoll, Laura Griffith, Courtney Halbower, Lois Lofton-Doniver, Katherine Mills, Alison Parsons, Holly Sasso

\*Participated via phone.

### **Minutes**

- I. Call to Order

The Office of Special Education Director, Teri Chapman, called the meeting to order at 10:10 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

Nicole Miller moved, seconded by Mark Smith that the SEAC approve the February 1, 2017 agenda. The vote was taken on the motion. Motion carried.

V. Approval of December 7, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Nancy Jaskiw moved, seconded by Sara Park that the SEAC approve the December 7, 2016 minutes. The vote was taken on the motion. Motion carried.

VI. Chairperson's Report

A. Today's focus

- a. SEAC FYI is a new communication sheet that each member should have received. This SEAC FYI will eliminate using meeting time for sharing routine information.

B. Report from Executive Committee Meeting

- a. September 17-18, 2017 have been set for the New Member Orientation and SEAC Retreat.
- b. Members-at-large are being offered the opportunity to give reports beginning in March.
- c. Reminder of SEAC Norms.

VII. Public Comment

- A. None presented.

VIII. MDE, Office of Special Education Report Teri Chapman

- A. Federal ESSA Regulations -
  - a. Government to Government tribal consultation agreements with each of the 12 federally recognized tribes where: 50% of student body is Native American or District is in receipt of \$40,000 or more Title VI funds.
  - b. MDE will meet face-to-face with tribal leadership on March 16.
- B. New regulations for significant disproportionality were released in December, 2016.
  - a. New calculation standards
  - b. Revised criteria
  - c. Effective July 2018
  - d. OSE is beginning preliminary work with Wayne State University and Public Sector Consultants to gain an understanding on the implications.
- C. The OSE continues to work on making all documents accessible by the April 30, 2017 deadline.
- D. The Special Education Stakeholder Survey and Input has closed and Public Sector Consultants are working on a draft summary. The final report will be made public in March, 2017.
- E. Discussion continues on redefining the relationship between the State and the sub recipient of IDEA federal grant funds.
- F. Critical Elements Analysis Guide (CrEAG) – This is the OSEP requirements that states must complete to demonstrate how they are meeting the IDEA mandate.
  - a. The OSE and ISD Special Education Directors are working together to develop a CrEAG for the sub recipient. This document will accompany the May 2017 IDEA flow through grant application.
  - b. During 2017-2018
    - i. The OSE will support each ISD in developing written responses to the items of the CrEAG

- ii. CrEAG will be uploaded into the Catamaran electronic system.
  - c. Long Term Focus shows the bigger focus of the newly defined relationship between the state and sub recipient, is by far Technical Assistance for System Improvement.
    - i. The state will need to make changes as the role of the sub recipient becomes more defined.
    - ii. Onsite reviews are tentatively set to begin in the Fall of 2018.
- G. Lt. Governor Calley signed into law on December 29, 2016, the new seclusion and restraint bill. The statute becomes effective March 29, 2017, aligning existing board policy with new requirements of the statute.
  - a. The OSE will seek approval of the State Board of Education at the March 14, 2017 meeting.
  - b. Districts must adopt a policy by the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year.
  - c. The objective of the policy is to improve the school climate to reduce the need for the emergency use of seclusion/restraint
  - d. Increase staff skills regarding de-escalation strategies.
  - e. The OSE has convened a team to develop the new policy. The team members represent the MDE, OSE, OSE grant funded initiatives (PBIS), school psychologist, behavioral specialist, Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) specialist from various ISDs and local districts.

IX. SEAC Organizations' Reports

- A. Craig McCalla, Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association (MEMSPA), The Federal IDEA Grant Requirements include: to train administrators across the state about IDEA compliance and behavior issues. MEMSPA advocates at local and state levels for more training re: IDEA and behavior issues. IDEA in the ESSA input:

MEMSPA has many joint interests as a part of SEAC and is willing to work in partnership.

- B. David Tebo, Michigan Association of School Administrators (MASA), The Federal IDEA Grand Requirement include:
  - a. Work with the Michigan Department of Education to help shape appropriate policy and reporting requirements for school district working with students with disabilities from birth through age 26.
  - b. Challenging Behavior would be to ensure that members are fully informed about critical special education related issues (e.g. upcoming one-day drive in conference related to the new seclusion and restraint laws).
  - c. ESSA: Partner with the national superintendent association on special education issues at the federal level including IDEA & ESSA.
  - d. Other critical areas include: inform and influence legislators as special education legislation is being developed and considered and work collaboratively with several state-wide special education focus groups and organization s to ensure that there is a positive partnership between all who work to advocate for students with special needs.
- C. Anne-Marie Sladewski, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), The ASCD is the worldwide leader in learning, teaching and educational leadership. The agency provides expert and innovative solutions for the opportunities and challenges facing 21<sup>st</sup> century learners: educators and students. Michigan ASCD improves teaching and learning for Michigan educators by: 1) fostering meaningful educational collaborations while advocating for policies and practices that support teaching and learning; 2) distributing and modeling effective evidence-based programs, products and services that will inform and support instructional leaders. What SEAC should know about your organization is the whole child approach so tools can be provided for improvement of educational actions and methods.
- X. SEAC Ex-Officio Agency Reports

A. MDE Office of Public and Governmental Affairs, Legislative Liaison Report Caroline Liethen, The 2017-2018 Legislative Session has begun. There are new House Education Reform Committee Members and House School Aid and Department of Education Committee Members. House Bill 5796 was signed in December, 2016. This repeals section 1766 of the Revised School Code that provided employment preference for certain school personnel in special education programs and services. School boards are no longer required to hire special education personnel displaced by a discontinued program or service before considering other applications. Senate Bills 36 and 38 were reported out that deal with fingerprinting students with disabilities. Bills to create the Deaf, Deafblind, and Hard-of-Hearing Children's Education Bill of Rights are expected to be reintroduced. Also, bills to provide for language development milestones and assessment of language and literacy development for deaf, deafblind and hard-of-hearing children are expected to be reintroduced.

B. Michigan Educator Preparation Institutions (EPI), Amy Schelling – The EPI group consists of professors of special education from universities across the state of Michigan. The mission of the group is to engage in continuous improvement of our special education teacher candidate programs ensuring that we are graduating highly effective special educators that are ready to meet the demands of today's classroom. The EPI organization (a) discusses federal and state mandates and/or rules that impact educator preparation institutions, (b) formulates ideas for responding effectively to rule changes and mandates and (c) seeks to ensure that our special education teacher candidates have the knowledge and skills to implement the principles of IDEA. Within Challenging Behavior it is critical that our teacher candidates are well prepared to prevent and respond to challenging behaviors in the classroom and school setting. At some institutions teacher candidates in special education take a full semester course on PBIS, classroom management, or applied behavior analysis. At many institutions

teacher candidates receive instruction specific to meeting the needs of students who experience challenging behavior, conducting Functional Behavioral Assessments and developing Positive Behavior Support Plans. As it relates to ESSA, the EPI organization (a) may provide input and feedback as stakeholders to the state related to various proposed initiatives and rule changes and (b) discusses how ESSA impacts the preparation of special education teachers, ensuring that our special education teacher candidates understand IDEA in the ESSA as it relates to their students and their teaching practice.

XI. Sub-Committee Reports

- A. Assistive Technology – Nancy Jaskiw and Mark Smith - The work committee began forming ideas and has work to do. They hope to have something go to the State Board of Education this year.
- B. Challenging Behavior – Amy Schelling – The work group had a good discussion and ranking of ideas from last year. The group will continue to determine the goals they want to achieve.
- C. Grounding Assumptions – Fran Loose and Anne-Marie Sladewski – The work group will continue to narrow down the 17 pieces and cluster them into areas while looking at a long term view.

XII. Meeting Take-Aways

- A. Table Talk- What went well?
  - a. Google Docs training was good.
  - b. The plan to identify the composition of SEAC and target recruiting.
  - c. The organization reports.
  - d. The identification of areas of SEAC expertise regarding disabilities.
  - e. Understanding that charter schools are LEAs within an ISD with same 3 considerations.

XIII. Member Announcements, Questions, Comments

- A. March 1-3 – Council for Exceptional Children Conference is in Grand Rapids.

- B. March 10-13 - Michigan Reading Conference is in Grand Rapids.
- C. March 17 – School Psychologists Conference is at Lansing Community College West Campus.
- D. March Forecast
  - a. 2017-2018 SEAC Executive Committee Nominations
  - b. Committee work continues
  - c. Federal IDEA grant requirements

XIV. Adjourn

Caryn Pack Ivey moved and Craig McCalla seconded to adjourn meeting. The meeting ended at 3:00 p.m.