

Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

MEETING MINUTES

April 5, 2017, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
4039 Legacy Parkway, Lansing, Michigan

Participation

Delegates Present:

Lisa Azzou, Jim Corr, Michel DeJulian, Anna Dusbiber, Jill Fennessy, Terri Henrizi, Nancy Jaskiw, Maggie Kolk, Andy Kowalczyk, Nicole Miller*, Caryn Pack Ivey, Sara Park, Teri Pettit, Heidi Ransom, Amy Sanderson, Anne-Marie Sladewski, Ronna Steel, William Young

Alternates Present:

Debra Houde for Lori Tavgigian, Lois Lofton-Doniver for Latika Fenderson, Mary Meldrum for Wendy Minor, Katherine Mills for Nancy Spanski

Ex-Officio Present:

Janet Kaley, Pam Kies-Lowe, Amy Schelling, Cynthia Wright

MDE Staff Present:

Ashley Kemmer, Deb Maurer, Joanne Winkelman

Facilitator:

Fran Loose

Guests Present:

Michelle Driscoll, Kanika Littleton, Debbie Rock, Holly Sasso, Sarah VanderBaan

*Participated via phone.

Minutes

I. Call to Order

The 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

Jill Fennessy moved, seconded by Jim Corr that the SEAC approve the April 5, 2017 agenda. The vote was taken on the motion. Motion carried.

V. Approval of March 1, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Nancy Jaskiw moved, seconded by Jim Corr that the SEAC approve the March 1, 2017 minutes. The vote was taken on the motion. Motion carried.

VI. Chairperson's Report

a. Today's Focus

- i. MDE Update
- ii. Reports from organizations, ex-officio members and one member-at-large
- iii. Grounding Assumptions Small Group Work
- iv. Committee Work
- v. Organization Vacancy Memo

b. Report from Executive Committee

- i. Summary of March Evaluation Survey
- ii. See SEAC FYI
- iii. The new 2017-2018 Executive Committee Members are:
 1. Heather Bird
 2. Jim Corr
 3. Nancy Jaskiw
 4. Sara Park
 5. Mark Smith
 6. Lori Tavgigian
 7. Amy Trahey

c. Reminder of SEAC Norms

VII. Public Comment

- a. None presented.

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

a. Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

- i. On March 28, the Department released ESSA State Plan peer review criteria for Title I, Part A; Title III, Part A; and the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Programs. These are the only programs of the consolidated state plan which are required to be peer reviewed; for all other sections of the plan, Department staff will review the state's submission. This document is intended to help ensure that each state submits a complete state plan, as well as guide peer reviewers in making recommendations to the Secretary on whether each state plan meets the requirements for those programs subject for peer review. April 3 is the first of two submission dates; the second is September 18 – nine states and the District of Columbia submitted state plans to the agency. Another seven states indicated that they had submitted plans to their governors' office (for the statutorily-required 30-day review period) and will submit plans to the agency no later than May 3. Michigan's Plan has been submitted to the governor's office.
- ii. The Office of Special Education (OSE) provided an all-day training for the Administrative Law Judges, Attorneys General, Michigan Special Education Mediation Program and OSE staff on March 16. University Professor of Education and Law at Lehigh University, Perry Zirkel provided the training, which addressed the issues of determining eligibility, evaluation, placement and identification requirements of IDEA.
- iii. A review of the shared obligation to ensure the provision of Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) and what system(s) is in place to:
 1. Ensure that all member districts know the requirements of IDEA.

2. Verify that member districts are implementing the requirement correctly.
 3. Support identified areas of improvement.
- iv. Office of Special Education Leadership Regional Meetings
 1. Regional Meetings with ISD Superintendents are scheduled to take place in May. The Tri-County Alliance (Wayne, Oakland and Macomb) have participated in all initial meetings with the department regarding the changes being discussed.
 - a. Region 1: May 2, 2017 in Marquette
 - b. Regions 2, 3 and 4: May 5, 2017 in Big Rapids
 - c. Regions 5, 6, 7 and 8: May 11, 2017 in Marshall
- v. The Michigan Special Education Mediation Program (MSEMP) has seen several system improvements. Additional support is being developed to better support families in: Basic IDEA procedural safeguards; Understanding mediation, IEP Facilitation and expected outcomes and Follow-up at the completion of the mediation process.
- vi. There is a New State Complaint Investigation Process
 1. The state will be leading any investigation resulting from a complaint issued against a local district or ISD operated program. The ISD will partner with the OSE throughout the joint investigation.
- vii. The OSE continues ongoing work with the ISDs. An ISD Special Education Director planning meeting will take place on April 10 and look to finalize the Critical Elements Analysis Guide for the sub recipient and continue data exploration to determine the state priority area of improvement.
- viii. Top 10 in 10 Innovation Roadshow
 1. The Michigan Department of Education invites all invested staff to one of seven Top 10 in 10 Innovation Roadshow

stops around the state. Find locations at: [Top 10 in 10 Roadshow](#)

- IX. Due Process Hearing Report by Joanne Winkelman
- a. From July 1, 2016 – March 15, 2017 there were 48 Due Process Complaints filed, 12 Expedited and 32 Dismissed/Withdrawn. There are currently 16 pending Due Process Complaints.
- X. SEAC Legislative Report by Caroline Liethen
- a. SB 271 Prohibition to starting school before Labor Day is in committee. The bill would require school districts provide 4-day weekends until after Labor Day.
 - b. Fingerprinting for Special Needs Children – SB 38 was placed on third reading in the House of Representatives on March 15, HB 4137 was referred to the Senate on March 30. This bill allows a parent or guardian of a child or youth with special health care needs to request that the child’s fingerprints and photograph be taken and included in the automated fingerprinting identification system (AFIS) and the statewide network of agency photographs.
 - c. Special Education Employment Preference – HB 4166 was referred to a second reading. This would repeal Sections 1742 and 1743 of the Revised School Code.
 - d. School Aid Budget Section 51a(1) Total Special Education Funding
 - i. House and Senate subcommittee budgets concur with the Governor’s recommendation for appropriation of \$963,146,100 from the State Aid Fund and \$431,000,000 in federal funding for special education programs for Fiscal Year 2017-18.
 - ii. Durant Payment – the House and Senate subcommittee budgets concur with the Governor’s recommendation for a Fiscal Year 2017-18 appropriate of \$640,400,000 to reflect updates cost estimates for Fiscal Year 2017-18.
 - e. School Aid Budget Section 51d Special Education Funds – The House and Senate subcommittee budgets concur with the Governor’s recommendation to reduce the federal appropriation to \$61,000,000.

- f. School Aid Budget Section 53a Special Education Court Placed Pupils – The House and Senate subcommittee concur with the Governor’s recommendation to continue the appropriation of \$10,500,000 for Fiscal Year 2017-18.
- g. School Aid Budget Section 54b Integrated Behavior and Learning Supports – The House and Senate subcommittee concur with the Governor’s recommendation to increase appropriation to \$1,600,00 in Fiscal Year 2017-18 to continue the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Education Task Force Report published in January 2016.
- h. School Aid Budget Section 55 – The Governor’s recommends to repeal the section and the House subcommittee concurs. The Senate subcommittee appropriates \$150,000 for Fiscal Year 2017-18 as the third of three years of funding.
- i. School Aid Budget Section 56 – The House and Senate subcommittee concur with the Governor’s recommendation to continue the \$37,758,100 appropriation for Fiscal Year 2017-18 and maintains the existing formula and language.

XI. SEAC Organizations’, Ex-Officio and Member-at-Large Reports

- a. Reports from SEAC Organizations, Ex-Officio and Members-at-large regarding their work relative to SEAC’s three annual priorities and their requests from SEAC relative to the priorities. Details of the following reports are available on the April PowerPoint.
 - i. Terri Henrizi, Association Children’s Mental Health (ACMH)
 - ii. Sara Park, Michigan Association of Administrators of Special Education (MAASE)
 - iii. Pam Kies-Lowe, Michigan Department of Education, McKinney Vento Act
 - iv. Jim Corr, Michigan Association of School Psychologists (MASP)
 - v. Andy Kowalczyk, Michigan Association of Secondary Principals (MASSP)
 - vi. Nicole Miller, Member-at-Large

XII. Grounding Assumptions

- a. All members participated in an analysis of the four assumptions with the greatest discrepancy between rated importance and status of statewide implementation. They identified what full implementation looks ad sounds like, what interferes with full implementation, strategies to enhance implementation. One group also worked to develop a graphic representation of the set of assumptions, as a resource for shared understanding.

XIII. Sub-Committee Reports

- a. An amendment to the Bylaws will be voted in May. The new language includes: "Section III. A (Committees-Executive Committee) Number 3. Quick Turnaround Advice to the State Board of Education (SBE) or the Michigan Department of Education (MDE): When there is a request from the SBE or MDE for time sensitive feedback, and there is not a SEAC Committee of the Whole business meeting prior to the deadline, the executive committee will provide a response and feedback on behalf of the SEAC with a majority vote of support. As time permits, the Executive Committee will seek electronic input from Committee of the Whole Members."
- b. Assistive Technology - Nancy Jaskiw reported that the committee will be ready to share checklist information in May.
- c. Challenging Behavior – Amy Schelling reported the committee went through recommendations and starting grouping them. They discussed alternatives to suspension. The committee will begin drafting the report.
- d. Grounding Assumptions – Fran Loose reported a couple of ideas for visualization and some common themes are coming through relative to what interferes with implementation of important practices. The committee will submit its report by June. It will be a resource to the September retreat.

XIV. Member Announcements, Questions, Comments and Take-Aways

- a. Jim Corr reminded people the MASP conferences are open to everyone.

- b. Discussion on FAPE was very informative.
 - c. Pam Kies-Lowe's report on McKinney Vento included important information.
- XV. Forecast and Reminders
- a. May Forecast
 - i. MDE updates
 - ii. Announce 2017-2018 Executive Committee Officers
 - iii. Committee work finalizing reports
- XVI. Adjourn

Michele DeJulian moved and Jim Corr seconded to adjourn meeting. The meeting ended at 3:05 p.m.