

Michigan's Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2019, 10:00 a.m. – 2:40 p.m.

5708 Cornerstone Drive, Lansing, Michigan

Participants

Delegates Present:

Anne Barna, Caterina Berry, Melisa Burch, Justin Caine, Donna Case, Robert Dickinson, Jill Fennessy*, Mary Finnigan, Kenya Harper-Black, Jennifer Headley-Nordman, Annette Hobrecht, Charlie Hollerith, Debra Houde, Nancy Jaskiw, Deb Kadish*, Kathleen Kosobud*, Kathy Krause, Kanika Littleton, Lois Lofton-Doniver, Chandra Madafferi*, Rebecca McIntyre, John Mertz, Jessica Murphy, Teri Pettit, Shalika Robie, Lily Schulting, Mark Smith, Nancy Spanski, Lori Tavgigian, Kara Tiethof*, Amy Trahey*, Gina Umpstead

Alternates Present:

Lisa Bacsikin, Amy Barto*, Eileen Brandt, Rebecca Gibson, Courtney Halbower, Donald Hubler, Katherine Mills*, Anne-Marie Sladewski, Sarah VanderBaan

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Laura Chang, Teri Chapman, Christine DeWildt*, Melissa Isaac, Pam Kies-Lowe*, Caroline Liethen, Sara Orris, Sarah Park*, Ann Rossi for Janet Kaley, Amy Schelling*, James Thomas

Members Absent¹:

Belle Bodelle, Michelle Frederick

MDE Staff Present:

Aaron Darling, Ashley Reed, Joanne Winkelman

Guests Present:

none

¹ Neither the delegate nor the alternate was physically present, nor did they participate by phone.

Facilitator:

Fran Loose

*Participated via phone.

Minutes

Call to Order

The Chairperson, Teri Pettit, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Approval of Proposed Agenda

Donna Case moved, seconded by Anne Barna that the SEAC approve the January 9, 2019 agenda. The vote was taken on the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of December 5, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Kathy Krause moved, seconded by Anne Barna that the SEAC approve the December 5, 2018 meeting minutes. The vote was taken on the motion. Motion carried.

Roll Call by Aaron Darling

Chairperson's Report by Teri Pettit

The chairperson reviewed the agenda and today's focus.

She summarized a report from Executive Committee Meeting

- a. Introduction of Gina Umpstead, a new temporary member-at-large filling Terie Elbers' vacancy for term ending June 2020; until SBE formal action

SEAC Member Reports

The following SEAC members reported regarding their work relative to SEAC's annual priorities and their requests from SEAC relative to the priorities. Details of the following reports are available to members in the Google Docs site.

1. Organizational Representatives
 - a. Annette Hobrecht, Michigan Association of School Social Workers, MASSW
 - b. Rebecca McIntyre, Michigan Association of Administrators of Special Education, MAASE
 - c. Shalika Robie, Michigan Council of Exceptional Children, MCEC
2. Member-at-large: Justin Caine

3. Ex-officio: Laura Chang, Michigan Teacher of the Year (MTOY)

Michigan's Determination by Scott Koenigschnecht, MDE Deputy Superintendent

Dr. Koenigschnecht shared the The Path Forward document and discussed Michigan Department of Education's response to the State's determination. Primary issues included:

1. Graduation/dropout rates
2. Comparison to how are other Great Lakes states doing
3. Controlling the controllable - e.g.
 - a. no consistent definition of chronic absenteeism & truancy policies
 - b. personal curriculum tool under-utilized

Public Comment

No one offered public comment.

Legislative Update

By Caroline Liethen, Legislative Liaison, MDE Office of Public and Governmental Affairs

1. Cyberbullying
2. A-F Grades, Rankings, and Designations for Public Schools
3. School Safety
4. Teacher and Administrator Evaluations
5. Public Innovative Districts

Sub-Committee Reports

1. Bylaws - Nancy Jaskiw
 - a. Nancy presented proposed bylaws amendments for a February vote and proposed Procedures for feedback, to be voted on by the executive committee.
 - i. II.B.2.a. Each member organization shall submit to the Office of Special Education, which will forward to the State Board of Education, nominations for a member and an alternate to represent the respective organization for the three-year term.
 - ii. Change the bylaws text throughout the bylaws to: "See SEAC Procedures for additional details."
2. Membership Committee - Nancy Spanski
 - a. A request was sent to the SBE for potential Member-at-Large nominations

- b. A letter is being sent this month to organizations whose delegates are currently completing their three-year terms. The organizations are to nominate successors by March.
- c. Letter being drafted for members with challenges meeting the Procedural expectation for attending four (4) meetings on-site.

MDE Office of Special Education (OSE) Report by Teri Chapman, Director

1. Michigan Department of Education Determination discussion and small group work
 - a. Members provided input on challenges collected, for sharing with Det Steering Committee on 1/25 and for further SEAC analysis on 2/6
2. Federal Update
 - a. Federal government shutdown does not include the State Department of Education
3. State Update
 - a. New State government officials
 - i. Governor Gretchen Whitmer
 - ii. Two new State Board members
 1. Judy Pritchett
 2. Tiffany Tilley
4. Office of Special Education (OSE) Update
 - a. Annual Performance Plan (APR) being finalized for February 1 submission
 - b. Levels and Types of Monitoring
 - c. The Michigan Autism Spectrum Disorder State Plan update released
 - d. Members asked to begin consideration of whether to discontinue January SEAC meetings in future years

Due Process Update and Hearing Reports Received by Joanne Winkelman, Supervisor

1. She shared recent activity

February Forecast by Teri Pettit, SEAC Chair and Fran Loose, SEAC Facilitator

1. Meeting date is February 6, 2019 (first Wednesday) at Lansing Community College - West Campus
2. Core agenda items:
 - a. Due process decision: Read Asks & Updates material ahead of time.
 - b. State and local determinations
 - c. Those doing February member reports already have a template due 10 days before the next meeting.

Member Announcements, Questions, Comments and Take-Aways

1. Participants are encouraged to complete on-line meeting evaluation
2. Comments and Take-Aways
 - a. For February 6
 - i. Read due process case and complete note taking organizer prior to February 6 to identify unmet needs
3. Communicate with your constituents about Take-Away issues
 - a. Take Away Highlights
 - i. The Path Forward by Scott K.
 1. Comparing state's information/data
 - ii. The legislative update by Caroline L.
 - iii. Multi-Tiered Systems of Support/Teacher of the Year presentation by Laura C.
 1. Costs of special education vs. preventative intervention
 - iv. Provide parents with more information regarding certificates of completion and diplomas
 1. They are not equivalent
 - v. Michigan's curriculum is not a level playing field
 - vi. Federal/State/ISD expectations and definitions (e.g.: truancy)
 - b. To Do's
 - i. SEAC Representative on Path Forward action team – how to be involved
 - ii. Concern re: Loss of teachers
 - iii. Support Personal Curriculum, more learning and use
 - iv. Family Matters topic: Personal Curriculum
4. Complete online meeting evaluation (via SurveyMonkey)
5. Member Announcements - none received

Adjourn

Nancy Spanski motioned to adjourn and Rob Dickinson seconded the motion. The meeting ended at 2:40 p.m.