

**WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON SPECIAL EDUCATION
September 28, 2018
Final MEETING MINUTES**

**Department of Natural Resources, GEF 2 Room G09
(101 S. Webster Street, Madison; 608-266-1781)**

Council members in attendance: David Burke, Kristin Burki, Meredith Dressel, Maria Escalante, Sally Flashberger, Nicole Frolke, Mackenzie Gabler, Pamela Hencke, Chiffon King, Katherine Kramer, Sue Larson (for Deborah Rathermel) Julie Lidbury, Amanda Mack, Jennifer Mims-Howell, Sara Nerenhausen, Nelsinia Ramos, Lynette Stansfield, and Amy Stevens.

DPI Staff in attendance: Barbara Van Haren, Daniel Parker, Patti Williams, Julia Hartwig, Christina Spector, Seth Bishop, and Marge Schenk.

10:00 – 3:00 pm

1. **BUSINESS MEETING #319:** Meeting called to order at 10:05am, it was seconded. The meeting came to order.
2. **New Member Introductions:** The new council members (Dave, Kristin, Nikki, Kathy, Kari, Chiffon, Pamela, and Nelsinia) introduced themselves to the group.
3. **Full Council Introductions:** The current council members introduced themselves to the group.
4. **Public Appearances:** Hector Portio was present as a member of the public but chose not to make any comments.
5. **Minutes of Meeting #318:** A motion was made to approve the minutes as is, it was seconded and approved.
6. **Correspondence/Chairperson's Report (Jennifer & Amy)**
 - a. **Council Report to Superintendent:** Sally asked that the letter from the public forum be included as an appendix to the report. Amy will add it and resubmit. There was a motion to accept the report and it was second. It was accepted as amended.
 - b. **Discuss Policies and Procedures:** There was discussion about the content of the agendas – is there enough time allotted for council reports and new business?
 - i. Sally would like to have more time for council member reports and issues.
 - ii. Sally would like to add a discussion of the next council meeting agenda to the new business section in the future.
 - iii. Sally would also like to see this Council become more advisory to both DPI and to decision makers around the state.
 - iv. This will be on the agenda for next meeting to solicit more feedback. Feel free to email Rita with any comments in between the meeting. Amy reminded the group that if they have issues they would like to address at a meeting to email Rita and ensure they are on the agenda.
 - v. Public forum – Sally feels that the council would like to have more than one public forum. There was a discussion about the use of the word “may” and it will be discussed during unfinished business.
7. **IDEA Complaint and Due Process Hearing Findings & Decisions** (Jennifer to lead, Patti to answer questions)
 - a. Sally asked Patti if she ever does a summary of the complaint and due process hearings. Patti offered to do it but she typically does this at the Leadership Conference. Patti offered to do a summary for council at the next meeting after the Leadership Conference.

- b. Dave mentioned that it would be nice to know those substantive policy concerns – Patti mentioned that these are highlighted in her legal update at the Leadership Conference.

8. Department of Public Instruction Report: Information and Discussion

- a. **Welcome New Council Members:** Barb welcomed the new council members and thanked them for their willingness to serve on the council.

- b. **Director's Update**

- i. **Staffing Updates/Introduce New Employees**

- 1. We have a new transition consultant starting at the end of October who will likely be announced in the next week or so. Watch the weekly email for an announcement.
 - 2. We are also very close to making an offer for the Specific Learning Disabilities consultant.

- ii. **OSEP Updates**

- 1. There is budget work going on at the federal level. There is a proposal of an increase for the US Department of Education which would result in 87 million related to IDEA. The budget proposal is working its way through the legislative process and we will keep you updated on its progress.
 - 2. New framework recently released called "Rethinking Special Education" which will focus on the Secretary's priorities. Focus on how we service early childhood students with disabilities and highlights some work of states. Barb will include this as an item in her weekly update with the links.
 - 3. Statewide Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) was submitted in April to the Office of Special Education (OSEP). Wisconsin received some very positive feedback, specifically on the need to improve coaching and coaching support related to our work with students with disabilities.
 - 4. Council of Chief State Schools Officers (CCSSO): Has reached out to talk about Wisconsin's College and Career Readiness IEP plan and they would like to know more about our best practices around IEPs and how we link that to the procedural compliance work.
 - 5. Daniel Parker recently provided a national presentation around college and career ready IEPs and effective strategies to enhance high quality IEPs.
 - 6. Disproportionality regulations: The federal regulations have been delayed, however stakeholder feedback, including from this council, means that we will begin engaging in the criteria set forth in the federal guidelines this year. The risk ratio will be 2.0 and a cell size of 10/30 and looking at a three-year analysis and two prior consecutive years. There will likely be more districts identified in Wisconsin, which means they will be required to set aside 15% of their IDEA entitlement for coordinated early intervening services (CEIS).
 - 7. LEA Determinations: we have balanced the results, which typically go out this time of year. This year the notifications will go out later in the year so we can send out a joint notification with Title I in late November/early December.
 - 8. 1% cap on students in the alternate assessment: Wisconsin met the 1% cap this year – right on the line. Very pleased with district and IEP team efforts to consider this updated information. The districts that have exceeded will receive notification and will be required to send verification to the district. We will work closely and provide individual technical assistance to those districts. Last year was the first year we needed to consider this data under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

- iii. **DPI Updates**

- 1. New weekly email updates tab: On the left hand side of the special education team page. There will be a searchable function and the news items will be updated.

2. Submission of state budget: Request has been made. We provided infographics on the budget for your reference. Highlights: 64 million dollars for student mental health funding, 600 million dollar investment in special education. Looking at increasing state categorical reimbursement rate after remaining flat funded for a number of years. Recommended increasing the high cost fund.
3. Blue Ribbon Commission: Many held around the state with a number of stakeholders. Last public meeting on June 4. Next steps are that the two co-chairs plan to meet with members of the commission individually to do over what needs to be changed to school funding and then draft recommendations to go to the governor. Barb will bring information back to Council.
4. Licensing: The special education team continues to partner with licensing to provide clear direction to districts. Biggest changes seem to be around related services but feel free to ask any questions.
5. Guidance memos: There is a new DPI/DHS joint guidance around behavioral treatment in school settings.

iv. Grant Updates

1. Support for students on the Autism spectrum: New professional development opportunity for supporting neuro-diverse students will be offered through CESAs across the state. Training will be beneficial for family members as well as all educators.
2. Some shifting of personnel in distortionary grants based on district population and needs.

9. Special Report: Setting Indicator 1 Targets

- a. Patti Williams walked through the definition and targets for the compliance and results indicators. The target for compliance indicators is set by OSEP and are supposed to be 0%. Results indicator rates are determined by council. We report on these each February, OSEP asks for clarification about a month later and then the Annual Performance Report is considered final and Patti will report to council. It is posted publically in June on the DPI website. These are always classified as “FFY” so for instance “FFY 16” was the most recent one, it is for the 2016-17 school year. There are also district profiles available on our website.
- b. Indicator one is the percent of students with IEPs graduating with a regular high school diploma and they must be the same as in the ESSA consolidated state plan. Wisconsin’s long term 4 year graduation target is to cut the graduation gap in half in 6 years (2.3% each year).
- c. Council has agreed with the targets for Indicator 1 in line with the ESSA consolidated plan.

10. Lunch

11. Special Report: Setting Indicator 3C Targets

- a. Patti Williams and Seth Bishop continued to present on indicators. Statewide assessment proficiency for students with IEPs. Includes all students with IEPs including those participating in DLM. Includes all grades assessed (3-8 and 11).
- b. The DPI recommendation is to make them the same as the ESSA consolidated plan. The goals are very ambitious especially compared to other states. The belief is that the targets will remain for the next 6 years if the assessments stay the same.
- c. Council has agreed with the targets for Indicator 3C in line with the ESSA consolidated plan. We will revisit these targets and indicators in two years when we have to set the APR

12. Special Report: Setting Indicator 8 Targets

- a. Daniel Parker and Seth Bishop led a presentation on Indicator 8 overview and target discussion. It is officially the parent involvement indicator but in ESSA the language was changed to family engagement.
- b. Done through a survey to families about the IEP process.

- c. It is a results indicator with a target set by council. This is a return presentation because council wanted to wait to develop targets until there was two years of baseline data.
- d. FY 2016 data was strong, 88.52%, so the target must reflect that higher baseline. Two options- continue with .5 increase in agreement or shift down to .25 improvement annually. Council members discussed their options in small groups and the consensus was an increase of .25 annually.

13. Unfinished Business

a. Council Member Reports and Issues

- i. Sally Flaschberger: Brought up the Office of School Safety (Department of Justice) is going to grant \$40,000 if districts agreed to send staff to a particular training. School safety teams will do school threat assessments, a database, and a tip line. Students with disabilities are more likely to have school contact, so Sally encourages the rest of the Council to stay aware of it and possibly discuss at the next meeting.
- ii. Mike Hipple: There was no report. He can give a report on the AAC meeting until December.

b. Public forum

- i. There is a local web-based forum on October 17, 2018. Only about 1/3 of council members have signed up – please be physically present in one space. In the spring, the Council may do another public forum electronically for a two week period. Council will look at the results and consider at the March 2019 meeting. Consensus is to try a spring electronic forum which can be discussed at the next meeting.

c. LIFE @ UWW

- i. UW-Whitewater had an orientation for LIFE @ UWW. Looks like it will be a very popular program.

14. New Business

a. Election of Officers: Chair and Co-Chair Positions

- i. Chair
 - 1. Nominations: Jennifer Mims-Howell. The nomination was accepted and Jennifer will remain the chair for 2018-19.
- ii. Vice-Chair
 - 1. Nominations: Amy Stevens. The nomination was accepted and Amy will remain the chair for 2018-19.

b. New Member Orientation Overview

- i. Done online via webinar by Daniel, Rita, and Courtney Salzar.

c. Next Council Meeting agenda items

- i. Complaints/due process hearing overview from November Legal Update presentation (Patti Williams)
- ii. DPI
 - 1. Budget update
- iii. Council Reports
 - 1. Mike Hipple
- iv. Unfinished Business
 - 1. Office of School Safety (Sally)
 - 2. Public Forum (Jennifer and Amy)
- v. New Business
 - 1. Letter from the Council regarding special education funding (Sally)

15. Announcements

- a. State Superintendent's Leadership Conference on Special Education and Pupil Services October 9-10, 2018 at Wisconsin Dells Wilderness Resort. All council members are encouraged to attend and will facilitate participation. Please let DPI know if you can attend as soon as possible.
- b. Open Forum Discussion October 17, 2018 and March 13, 2019 (Electronic 2 Weeks)
- c. Next Meeting Date (December 7, 2018)

16. Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made, it was seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:57 pm.