



Special Education Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Place: Nine East

Address: 9 West St., Montpelier VT 05602

Date: May 14, 2018

Present:

Mary Barton, Karen Hartman, Barb Joelle, Troy McAllister, Mill Moore, Lauren Moreno Rhim, Eileen Guyette, Karin Edwards, Nancy Richards (phone)

Agenda

9:30 - 9:40 Roll Call, Assign Roles, Review/Revise Agenda as Needed - Mary
9:40 - 9:45 Open Meeting – Sign-in Sheet/Public Comments
9:45 - 9:50 Approve Minutes for April 18, 2018 Meeting
9:50 - 10:00 Elect Officers
10:00 -10:45 Legislature Update/AOE Update
10:45 -11:15 Focused Monitoring – Update
11:15 -11:45 Review Data Regarding Students with Emotional Disturbance
11:45 -12:00 Break
12:00 - 12:30 Review Membership Table
12:30 - 1:10 Discuss Priorities
1:10 - 1:20 June Agenda
1:20 - 1:30 Other - Dates for 2018-2019

Roll Call, Assign Roles, Review/Revise Agenda:

Done

Open Meeting – Sign-in Sheet/Public Comments:

No comments

Approve Minutes for April 18, 2018 Meeting:

Minutes approved: Eileen Guyette moved to approve, second, Mill Moore.

Elect Officers:

Troy McAllister moved to table elections until later in the meeting to include members that might arrive late, second, Mill Moore.

Election of officers was conducted at the end of the meeting:

- Eileen nominated Lauren Moreno Rhim Secretary, Lauren accepted with AOE continuing to take minutes.
- Clarification of Vice-chair duties—orientation and recruitment—Eileen Guyette nominated herself.

- Chair, Troy McAllister nominated himself, Mary Barton is not interested in running for the position.
- Nominations were closed, Mill moved to approve all as nominated, second, Barb. New officers effective in June.

Legislature Update/AOE Update:

- Mill Moore updated: Census-based funding bill adopted, several years allowed for full implementation of the requirements of the bill. Some issues of concern: if an independent school has a student with an IEP who wants to enroll and cannot get a special education teacher then they will serve the student's needs with the assistance of the LEA.
- Schools will have to be reimbursed through the LEA.
- Discussion included Troy McAllister comment that while independent schools will be required to take all students, public schools do not have the same requirement.
- Mary Barton reported that Grantium has been replaced.
- Karin Edwards reported there will be an alternate assessment this year, it goes out this week, the new iteration of the IDEA grant also goes out this week, there is no more Grantium, it is now the Grant Management System. The funding bill is moving forward, if it is passed, there will be few changes in the coming year, more flexibility in spending, and easier administration. The Rules will most likely be opened; Lauren noted that there should be a connection between SEAC and rulemaking. Updates on other bills. Several RFPs are in process in response to the DMG report, early literacy, "high level" instructional strategies, strategic planning for PBIS, and "leading by convening."

Focused Monitoring - Update

Karen Hartman reported that AOE will initiate monitoring with at least one district before the end of the school year, with a site visit planned in June. This will pilot the newly developed/developing monitoring program, which will focus on LRE and building data utilization capacity. AOE plans to visit all SU/SDs over a two-year period—following pilot and stakeholder input—to obtain a baseline on programs and practices, and implement a participatory monitoring and evaluation model.

In response to discussion about requirements for SU/SDs to report structural and program changes to AOE, Troy referred to a recent memo from Heather Bouchey, Acting Secretary of Education, regarding redistricting, inter and intra district changes in configuration, and requirements for reporting changes to AOE. The memo will be forwarded to SEAC members.

Discussion of inclusion, and integration of gen. ed. and special ed., with a need to coordinate gen. and special ed. at the agency level.

Lauren Moreno Rhim moved that the Council write a welcome letter to the new Secretary (when appointment is made) and articulate priorities. Second, Troy McAllister. The letter will be drafted by Lauren, disseminated to the Council, changes made, and finalized. Priorities to include: 1. Break down silos between gen. and special education; 2. ED population; 3. Availability of mental health services; 4. PD regarding retention and expansion of special ed. teacher population; 5. Support funding changes with PD; and 6. Advocate intentional support for districts for funding changes.

Review Data Regarding Students with Emotional Disturbance:

Reviewed demographic information regarding ED population, changes over time, comparisons with other disability categories. Discussion of possible reasons for trends in ED population, including state policies, changes in disability categories, requirement to “rule out” ED applied differently across SDs and SUs, result of other unidentified and unaddressed disabilities. Other issues discussed included some students placed in ED programs early and don’t transition back to gen. ed., based on restraint and seclusion reports may be earlier diagnosis of ED in the future, variation in rates across the state.

Review Membership Table:

- Reviewed membership table, new appointments, Mary will update the table.
- Mill noted that as a new member he would like to have orientation information. Discussion of new member materials to include by-laws, reimbursement process, contact information for members, responsibilities.
- Troy will set up a site on Groups.io for communication, decisions about meeting dates and times, informational materials. He will send an invitation to all Council members and AOE staff. (Information dissemination and discussion to take place on the site in conformance with open meeting laws).
- Recruitment will continue.

Discuss Priorities:

Priorities set:

- Letter to the new Secretary when appointed, to include silo breakdown as support for inclusion; ED rates; support for new funding process; intentionality around independent school changes.
- Membership.
- Raising SEAC’s profile to have greater input on special education concerns, suggested rotating attendance of State Board meetings.
- Testify at the legislature.
- Teacher retention.
- Inclusion—support policies that foster inclusion.

June Agenda:

- Letter to Secretary—discuss and finalize following individual review.
- Calendar for State Board attendance (rotating).
- Review legislation.
- Rules update.

Other - Dates for 2018-2019

- Poll will be on Groups.io site.
- No other business.

Eileen moved to adjourn meeting, second Troy.