
Special Education Advisory Panel Executive Committee

Draft Meeting Minutes

Meeting Place: Virtual Teams meeting

Date: July 11, 2024

Present: Katie Ballard, Teagen Comeau, Cammie Naylor, Crista Yagjian, Heather Doxsee-Willis and Lindsey Wells

Public: Al Mitton, Suzy West, and Melissa McClure

Agenda:

- 4:30 – 4:35 Call to order, adjustments, agenda changes
- 4:35 – 4:40 Public comment
- 4:40 – 5:10 Discuss end of year meetings and wrap up Purpose: to debrief and determine next steps
- 5:10 – 5:55 Wrap up and continue drafting end of the year report
- 5:55 – 6:25 Scheduling for next year Purpose: to determine schedule with Chair and EC for meetings next year
- 6:25 – 6:30 Public comment
- 6:30 Adjourn

Call to order, adjustments, agenda changes:

Meeting began promptly at 4:30 with small group and discussed no need to vote so we agreed to continue agenda as best we can. Discussed adjusting Public Comment to ensure HWD and other EC members were able to be present.

Public comment:

Held until 5:15

Discuss end of year meetings and wrap up Purpose: to debrief and determine next steps:

Unable to discuss due to missing Jacqui. Identified desire to finish drafting first annual report. Katie Ballard, Teagen Comeau and Jacqui Kelleher will work on debriefing and following up on minutes and draft.

Scheduling for next year Purpose: to determine schedule and platform with Chair and EC for meetings next year:

Discussion of schedule for next year and Meeting Day. The survey resulted in mixed results and few responses. Don't want to change EC time. Discussion of rotating SEAP Full Panel Meetings. Need to post schedule for upcoming year ASAP.

Comments: regarding schedule and availability for full 3 hrs, does not occur during work meeting.

Tuesday is best for folks who responded to poll for in person. Tentatively decided on Tuesdays 1st Tuesday of month will be full panel, 3rd will be EC dependent on AOE, holidays and chair schedule. KB will confirm and post asap. The first EC meeting will be Aug 20 4:30-6:30.

October 1st (in person), Agreement Spring Panel Meeting, will be held in person in April/May.

Discussed Accessibility of SEAP Documents
Warm Email Prior to Every Meeting w Relevant Documents
Discussion of Calendar Reminder Functions.

Platform – conversation regarding accessibility of platform. Zoom is known to be more accessible. State uses Teams. The issue is the State does not pay for zoom account, we need to decide if we want to pursue this and what angle.

Public comment

5:25 – Suzy West, OT, Brattleboro- Public Comment. Group of Educators and Services providers from Inspire School for Autism, employed there for 9years. Speaking on behalf of a group of educators. Lack of Effective leadership, culture of school devolving, out of compliance. Allegations of emotional abuse against school leadership at the school. Multiple reports to DCF. Regulatory noncompliance, services providers not being invited to IEP meetings nor having access to IEPs. Attempted to bring to Board. Within 1 week, every staff person who brought complaints were fired. Poor treatment of youth – have to give the details of mistreatment so we can investigate, except that the mistreatment was implied in the explanation. We felt like there was a culture of bringing problems and not having them responded to collaboate4change@yahoo.com.

Albert Mitton, present as a collaborator. Found it really hard to make any progress and frustrating that Independent Schools are held to such loose standards compared to public schools.

Melissa McClure, not offering specific public comment. Present to support colleagues.

Scheduling for next year Purpose: to determine schedule and platform with Chair and EC for meetings next year (continued):

Discussion of Teams vs Zoom – question of what program is more accessible.

Contact at National Center for Systemic Improvement, propose professional development. Yes, this will happen early in the next year, Either at first meeting or at in person meeting.

Brief Discussion of other potential important professional development for Panel members. Discuss possible opt in training for new or returning members.

Logistics – at the end of every meeting, recap and identify action items and assignments. Document and spread work out more. Helpful to be on the same page.

Story telling at each panel meeting to collaborate and identify when special education works. Story Shares. Looking to positive and interested in things that work.

Wrap up and continue drafting end of the year report:

Upcoming Work: Strategy Planning for Panel, seeking AOE input for planning purposes. Katie Ballard and small group will work on getting strategic planning started and send AOE list of topics for clarity on best time for report to SEAP, for agenda planning.

Question: Does the panel provide a report. Not required, aspirational to send to AOE and State BOE. Do offer public comment on topics, advisement to agency, panel remains in a growth phase, areas of unmet needs.

Question: Who oversees FAPE in publicly funded private placements- sending districts. Not clear AOE oversight will discuss more later.

Public comment:

No additional comment.

Adjourn: 6:26

Meeting Schedule (hold the dates):

TBA