

APPROVED MINUTES

Meeting Place: Hybrid Meeting Microsoft Teams platform (Virtual Meeting) and The Classroom at UVM Extension, 327 US-302, Barre Montpelier Rd. Barre, VT 05641

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2023 (4:30 p.m. to 7:35 p.m.)

Present: Dawn Campbell, Lisa Johnson, Scarlett Duncan, Susan Comerford, Katie Ballard, Amy Wheeler-Sutton, Krista Yagjian, Betty Roy, Susan Aranoff, Chris Case, Tara Howe, Jacqui Kelleher, Chris Kane, Rachel Seelig, Mel Houser, Sandra Chittenden, Teagan Comeau, Vickie Haskins, Alison, Mac Gardner Morse, Ana Russo, Rene Sanchez, Molly McFaun, Kim McNamara, Barbara Joyal, Vickie Haskins

Agenda:

4:30-4:40	Come to Order, Review Group Expectations, approve Dec and Jan Draft Minutes
4:40-5:25	ACT 35 presentation
5:25-5:55	SSIP with Betty Roy
5:55-6:00	Break
6:00-6:15	Rule Change and update and letter
6:35-6:40	State Director Update
6:40-7:10	Covid impact and protocols
7:10-7:25	Updates from EC and Chair
7:35	Adjourn

Come to Order, Review Group Expectations:

The meeting was called to order. There is a change to the agenda due to unavoidable changes on the part of the presenters. Susan Aranoff made a motion to adjust the agenda order. Scarlett Duncan seconded the motion. The new order is:

Rachel Seelig made a motion to approve all current unapproved minutes as written. Dawn Campbell seconded the motion. A vote was taken with no opposed to the motion. It passed unopposed.

Public Comment:

Was moved to the beginning of the meeting. Scarlett Duncan made a motion and Susan Comerford seconded a motion to have public comment at the beginning and the end of the meeting. Motion passed unopposed with no objection.

Mac Gardner Morse made a public comment about the Pattern of Strengths and Weaknesses as a method to identify specific learning disability. He would like for the panel to make a recommendation to the state that they do not approve PSW as a method of diagnosing SLD. Mac has sent an email with research to the Chair.

Mel Houser made a public comment about the use of seclusion and restraint in the schools. She is a physician and sees that this traumatizes many of her patients. She provided her email address:

melissa.houser@allbrainsbelong.org.

Additional public comment was opened at the end of the meeting, but no public comment was made.

Act 35 Report Presentation:

Was moved to the beginning of the meeting due to time constraints.

Christa Yagjian mentioned Act 35 in the Executive Panel meeting as a potential topic.

Amy Wheeler Sutton (The Best Project) came to discuss Act 35 Equitable and Inclusive School Environments. She gave an update on the Task Force and the full report can be found at:

They are funded by the AOE. They train schools in how to implement PBIS.

[Final Report](#)

SSIP with Betty Roy:

Ana Russo counted how many parents were in attendance. Betty Roy reported to the panel about SSIP (State Systemic Improvement Plan). Federal mandate through IDEA and OSEP. There is a goal to improve math proficiency for children with disabilities in grades 3, 4, 5.

BREAK:

Rule Change and Update from letter:

[Special Education Rule Changes](#)

Chris Kane gave an update on the rule changes in special education. The Panel provided a letter to the AOE. Since the delay, LEAs have had opportunities for more individualized support for training about the rule changes. More coaching options are available, the evaluations manual has been updated, forms have been updated. Surveys have been sent to special education administrators to see what they believed were the most significant needs. MTSS, Communication, details around functional skills and intervention and instruction as it relates to the eligibility process were the most common needs identified.

State Director search update:

Chris Kane gave an update on the search for a new State Director of Special Education. The AOE has completed the interviews for the first posting of the position, but they did not find a candidate to whom they wanted to offer the job. The job will be reposted and there will be an update in a month.

Covid Impact and compensatory services/ Covid Procedures for students with Disabilities:

Discussion was held in response to the letter read by Kate Larose in the previous meeting of the Executive Panel. The Executive Panel believed that the information was important to share with the larger panel. The AOE may disseminate some of the information from the letter via the AOE website in a more parent friendly format.

The AOE is not monitoring students with disabilities that are unable to attend school due to COVID. The AOE is focused on bringing awareness to the problem.

Emily Simmons Dispute Resolution:

Will be here in March.

Restraint and seclusion update:

Chris Case did an update on restraint and seclusion. There are new forms so that LEAs can use electronic forms to submit documentation about restraint and seclusion. Parents can provide information but not electronically. There is a webinar to watch on the website. The hope is that with these tools, parents can be more informed and involved.

Updates: the Governor's office is trying to be more involved in the appointment of panel members. They would like to have more input on who is moved forward for Governor's approval. SEAP will be working with Dan French to find a way to work together.

We are also updating our bylaws in membership and appointments.

We will be talking at the Executive Meeting about proposals to the OSEP conference.

We will also get more information about the new state assessment tool.

Emily Simmons will be speaking at a future meeting.

Adjourn:

Meeting Schedule (hold the date):

[March 9, 2023](#) (Hybrid), 1:00pm-4:05pm)

[April 13, 2023](#) (Hybrid), 4:30pm-7:35pm)

[May 11, 2023](#) (Hybrid), 4:30pm-7:35pm)

[June 8, 2023](#) (In-person) 10:00am-4:05pm)