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## Special Education Advisory Panel

### Approved Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Place:** Vermont Agency of Education, Conference Room 513, 1 National Life Drive, Davis 5, Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

**Date:** December 3, 2024

**Present:** Dana Lesperance, Cammie Naylor, Katie Ballard, Tracie Rubman, Sandra Chittenden, Regina-Ann Cooper, Alison Amadon, Rene Sanchez, Crista Yagjian, Ashley Converse, Jacqui Kelleher, Teagen Comeau, Erica Smith, Lindsey Wells, Deborah Ormsbee

Public Members - Krissa Metivier, Summer Stelter, Susan Aranoff, Karen Price

AOE – Ana Russo, Brandon Dall, Amanda Hass, Cassie Santo, Interim State Director

Guests – Erin Maguire, Meghan Roy

#### Agenda:

10:00 – 10:05 Call to Order, Agenda Changes, and welcome from the Chair, Approval of any outstanding draft minutes

10:05 – 10:10 Public comment

10:10 – 10:40 Overview of Local Special Education Determination and the Monitoring cycles with Tristan from AOE **Purpose:** To better understand special education determinations and monitoring cycles

10:40– 11:00 Alternative Assessment Coordinator Introduction and initial conversation about the upcoming assessment window including accommodations and alternate assessment eligibility. **Purpose:** Panel will be able to ask questions for them to provide future updates and better understand current practices

11:00 – 11:30 Part 3 of Independent School Conversation-The Educator lens with Erin Maguire from EWSD **Purpose:** To better understand the role of the school district and school team as it relates to publicly funded students

11:30 – 11:50 Briefly review Picus Report special Education **Purpose:** understand recent recommendations/report around funding and special education

11:50– 12:35 Working Lunch **Purpose:** To gather final feedback ideas and have discussions related to indicator feedback being sent to AOE at the meeting

- 12:35 – 1:30 Commission on the Future of Public Education Conversation with Chair Meagan Roy **Purpose:** To understand the scope and purpose of the commissions work as well as their timeline to better understand how we can be involved
- 1:30 – 2:00 Interim Secretary Saunders **Purpose:** Panel will meet Secretary Saunders to hear updates and priorities
- 2:00 – 2:20 Interim State Director of Special Education Cassie **Purpose:** To come meet and engage with the panel around AOE updates and share priorities
- 2:20 – 2:45 SSIP Coordinator Caitlin will discuss the SSIP with Panel **Purpose:** to discuss and engage with AOE around questions and feedback related to SSIP
- 2:45 – 3:00 Briefly discuss and engage with Caitlin around parent engagement feedback/questions **Purpose:** To determine next steps on Indicator 8 feedback
- 3:00 – 3:15 Review as a large group all draft indicator feedback forms and consider any final questions **Purpose:** Final discussion on indicators 3 and 17
- 3:15 – 3:30 Final Decisions on each indicator area as it relates to panel feedback and recommendations. **Purpose:** Will make final determinations by consensus or vote
- 3:30 – 3:45 Next steps on remaining open items **Purpose:** Determine if any next steps are necessary as a group for each topic
- 3:45 – 3:50 Membership updates **Purpose:** updates and potential vote on new member
- 3:50 – 3:55 Public Comment
- 4:00 Adjourn

**Call to Order, Agenda Changes, and welcome from the Chair, Approval of any outstanding draft minutes:**

Call to Order 10:05 (no quorum yet)

Update: State Board of Education discussion of roles and responsibilities of state board and independent schools (recommendation to review recording) taking ‘it’ slowly w impact of changes that might come following the election

Quorum reached at 10:16

10:36 am Return to Voting

**Minutes** – October 1, 2024, Nov 5, 2024 – TC Move to Approve, JK Second – Unanimous Pass.

**Membership** – Summer Stelter (application rcv’d – parent rep role) KB Move, TC Second – Unanimous Pass. Application will move forward.

**Agenda Adjustments** – Shorten Lunch, move visit from Interim State Director of Ed (12:05-12:35), visit from Secretary of Ed (1-1:30). RC Move, AC second.

**Public comment:**

No public comment

**Overview of Local Special Education Determination and the Monitoring cycles with Tristan from AOE Purpose: To better understand special education determinations and monitoring cycles:**

AOE staff review cycles and process for supporting districts that are not in compliance. Procedural Compliance reviews (not substantive).

**Alternative Assessment Coordinator Introduction and initial conversation about the upcoming assessment window including accommodations and alternate assessment eligibility. Purpose: Panel will be able to ask questions for them to provide future updates and better understand current practices:**

Requesting Public Comment in Indicator 4 (due immediately)

Most significant intellectual disability, designed around the common core connected standards. Expect about 1% of students (not on SU of SD) statewide level. Discussion of Alt Assessment.

**Part 3 of Independent School Conversation-The Educator lens with Erin Maguire from EWSD Purpose: To better understand the role of the school district and school team as it relates to publicly funded students:**

Size, scope, and scale of districts contributes to the variability.

**Briefly review Picus Report special Education Purpose: understand recent recommendations/report around funding and special education:**

11:45am Discuss major recommendations from Picus report in Special Education Session (recommended review report)

**Working Lunch Purpose: To gather final feedback ideas and have discussions related to indicator feedback being sent to AOE at the meeting:**

2:12pm Indicator feedback. Finalize and submit SEAP Feedback

**Commission on the Future of Public Education Conversation with Chair Meagan Roy Purpose: To understand the scope and purpose of the commissions work as well as their timeline to better understand how we can be involved:**

Discussion of the Charge of Commission and work group process.

**Interim Secretary Saunders Purpose: Panel will meet Secretary Saunders to hear updates and priorities:**

Susan Aranoff, DD Counsel Question about no service letters

Karen Price, VFN – Draw backs to formal complaint processes

**Interim State Director of Special Education Cassie Purpose: To come meet and engage with the panel around AOE updates and share priorities:**

Discussion of current state of special education, reporting, and progress. Anticipate new director hiring early in the new year.

**SSIP Coordinator Caitlin will discuss the SSIP with Panel Purpose: to discuss and engage with AOE around questions and feedback related to SSIP:**

Discussion of what is SSIP Question re: incentives and improvement/encouraging districts to engage in SSIP.

Briefly discuss and engage with Caitlin around parent engagement feedback/questions Purpose: To determine next steps on Indicator 8 feedback:

**Review as a large group all draft indicator feedback forms and consider any final questions Purpose: Final discussion on indicators 3 and 17:**

Panel finalized and submitted comment to AOE.

**Final Decisions on each indicator area as it relates to panel feedback and recommendations. Purpose: Will make final determinations by consensus or vote:**

Panel finalized and submitted Indicator 4 comment to the AOE.

**Next steps on remaining open items Purpose: Determine if any next steps are necessary as a group for each topic:**

Skipped.

**Adjourn:**

4:00

**Meeting Schedule (hold the dates):**

January 28, 2025, 4:30pm-7:30pm

February 4, 2025, 4:30pm-7:30pm

March 5, 2025, 4:30pm-7:30pm

April 1, 2025, 4:30pm-7:30pm

May 6, 2025 (In-Person), 10:00am-4:00pm

June 3, 2025, 4:30pm-7:30pm