Michigan’s Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting Minutes
October 3, 2019, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
5708 Cornerstone Drive, Lansing, MI 48917

Participants
Organizational Delegates Present

Members at Large Present
Justin Caine, Joseph Kukulski*, Lori Skibbe, Kara Tiethof, Regina Umpstead

Ex-Officio Members Present
Belle Bodell, Teri Chapman, Christine DeWildt, Janet Kaley, Cara Lougheed, Jennifer Hirst, Christina Sharp for Melissa Isaac

Alternates Present
Eileen Brandt, Adrienne Gates, Rebecca Gibson*, Kathleen Kosobud, Don Myers, Tammy Reich, Ann Rossi, Stacie Rulison, Cindy Shinsky, Anne-Marie Sladewski, Nancy Spanski, Sarah Winslow

Absent¹
Anne Barna, Donna Case, Mary Finnigan, Michelle Frederick, Deborah Kadish, Pam Kies-Lowe, Shalika Robie, Lily Schulting, James Thomas, Amy Trahey

¹ Neither the delegate nor the alternate was physically present, nor did they participate by phone.
MDE Staff Present
Aaron Darling, Rebecca McIntyre, Ashley Reed

Guests Present
Bersheril Bailey, Don Dailey, Beth Kohler

Facilitator
Teri Pettit

*Participated via phone.

Minutes

Call to Order
Jennifer Headley-Nordman called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Opening Roll Call
Aaron Darling performed roll call.

Approval of Proposed Agenda
Kara Tiethof moved, seconded by Charlie Hollerith that the SEAC approve the October 3, 2019 agenda. The vote was taken on the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of June 5, 2019 Meeting Minutes
Justin Caine moved, seconded by Kenya Harper-Black that the SEAC approve the June 5, 2019 meeting minutes. The vote was taken on the motion. Motion carried.

Introduction of Featured Members

1. American Federation of Teachers of Michigan - Delegate Lois Lofton-Doniver; Alternate Rebecca Gibson
2. Michigan Association of Public School Academies - Delegate Sarah VanderBaan; Alternate Cindy Shinsky
3. Michigan Transition Services Association - Delegate Melisa Burch: Alternate Eileen Brandt
4. Michigan Department of Education, Office of Educational Supports, Special Populations Unit, McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program - Delegate Pam Kies-Lowe; Alternate Sara Orris
5. Member at Large - Joseph Kukulski

Activity – Land Mines

In lieu of member reports, members participated in an activity to get to know one another and to demonstrate the importance of working together as a team to get to the finish line.

Chairperson’s Report by Jennifer Headley-Nordman

Jennifer reviewed the agenda and meeting focus.

She summarized a report from Executive Committee Meeting:

1. Work accomplished over the summer months
   a. Approved new norms
   b. Assisted in the updating of documents
   c. Mentored newcomers
   d. Assisted in creation of agendas
   e. Voiced wishes for seating arrangements
   f. Began preliminary work on annual priorities
   g. Discussed with Rebecca McIntyre changes to due process hearing work
   h. Established committees and chairs
   i. Reviewed and recommended survey questions

Bersheril Bailey, State Manager – Great Lakes Comprehensive Center & Don Daily, Project Manager – Michigan Data Hub

Bersheril Bailey is the State Manager for the Great Lakes Comprehensive Center. She has extensive knowledge regarding graduation and dropout. She has
participated in a number of groups including The Path Forward workgroup on dropout. She was a pivotal voice in the creation of EWIMS - Michigan’s Early Warning Intervention and Monitoring System. We welcomed her and Don, along with their expertise as we learned information that will help us address our priorities for this year.

Public Comment

No public comment.

SEAC Priorities Activity

Progress on our priorities reflects surfacing and resolving conflict and necessitates respect for different thinking/working styles among the affected stakeholders. All types of questions/concerns must be addressed.

MDE Office of Special Education (OSE) Update by Teri Chapman, Director

1. Office of Special Education
   a. Follow up on topics missed at the September working retreat
      i. Discipline
      ii. Funding
      iii. Problem-Solving Options
      iv. Roles and Responsibilities
      v. Annual Performance Report/State Performance Plan
      vi. IDEA Determinations for States
      vii. Theory of Action
      viii. Top 10 in 10

Moving from Advocating to Advising

1. A fine line between the two.
2. At times you will present a position that is counter to your own beliefs because you are representing the stakeholder group.
3. Value of SEAC is to hear ALL voices - not the loudest.
4. You want to present your view and reasoning and then encourage others to challenge and explore it.
5. All perspectives have equal value.

Report from Cara Lougheed, Michigan Teacher of the Year

1. Teacher/area shortages
2. Michigan School for the Deaf
3. Special Education Administrator Standards
4. Separate accountability systems for schools/districts
5. 3rd grade reading law
6. Observations so far

Due Process Update and Hearing Reports Received by Rebecca McIntyre, Supervisor

1. Due process case filed by a district due to a request for an Individual Educational Evaluation (IEE): Traverse City Area Public Schools vs LG & SB o.blo JB
2. Due process Complaint Organizer reviewed
3. Shared new Family Matters document on IEEs

Sub-Committee Reports

1. Bylaws
2. Membership
3. Mission Review
Sharing & Wrap-Up by Jennifer Headley-Nordman, SEAC Chair

1. Within the next week
   b. Communicate with your constituents about Take-Away issues.

Closing Roll Call

Aaron Darling performed roll call.

Adjourn

Lois Lofton-Doniver moved to adjourn and Kara Tiethof seconded the motion. The meeting ended at 3:00 p.m.