

**WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON SPECIAL EDUCATION  
December 8, 2017  
Meeting MINUTES**

**Department of Public Instruction, Room P041  
(125 S. Webster Street, Madison; 608-266-1781)**

**Council members in attendance:** Dara Atandare, Patricia Becker, Kimberly Campion, Vicki Davis Davila, Meredith Dressel, Sue Maria Escalante, Sally Flashberger, Regena Floyd-Sambou, Pamela Foegen, Mackenzie Gabler, Nicole Hansen, Michael Hipple, Jennifer Mims-Howell, Anna Moffitt, Sara Nerenhausen, Lori Poppe, Deb Rathermel (Represented by Sue Larsen), Lynette Stansfield, Amy Stevens, Tricia Thompson, Samantha Villagomez

**DPI Staff in attendance:** Barbara Van Haren, Daniel Parker, Patti Williams, Julia Hartwig, Rita Fuller, Lee Sippola, David DeGuire

**10:00 – 3:00 pm**

**BUSINESS MEETING #316:** Amy Stevens called the meeting to order, it was seconded, and the meeting came to order.

**1. Public Appearances: None.**

**2. Minutes of Meeting #315:** The minutes were read by the group. Chair Jennifer Mims-Howell made a motion to approve the minutes and it was seconded with the understanding that additional notes being added on Council members' comments, if needed.

**3. Correspondence/Chairperson's Report**

- a. **Debrief Open Forum:** Jennifer Mims-Howell debriefed on Open Forum and asked Council members to express how they felt the Open Forum went. She reviewed the written and spoken comments of parent participants from Open Forum and suggestions from the RSN debrief on Open Forum. Jennifer informed Council members a letter will be drafted to send to Open Forum participants. Jennifer & Amy will meet with DPI regarding the draft letter to Open Forum and get back with Council members.
- b. **Council Minutes:** Council members to review the meeting minutes from September 22, 2017 meeting. Council members approved the meeting minutes with the understanding their might be an amendment later. The motion was seconded.
- c. **Compliance Complaints:** Council members reviewed compliance complaints. There were no decisions made to compliance complaints at this time. Patty Williams was available to answer questions. Council members mentioned there are barriers in process with parents placing a DPI complaint – difficult to do and the process is lengthy, and leaves out a lot of people who can't write formal letters, etc. District liaisons could help with the complaint process. WSPEI coordinators can be scribes for the complaint form for people where writing is a barrier. There are requirements for scribing for parents.

**4. Council Member Reports and Issues**

- a. **September Meeting Minutes:** Council members felt the meeting minutes were too short and did not enough details of what Council members said in the September meeting. Council members requested more details in the meeting minutes about their comments moving forward.
- b. **Open Forum Debrief:** Council members would like a flyer to help advertise Open Forum to get the word out. Open Forum was good and beneficial. Suggestions included figuring out

additional satellite sites and locations closer to parents. Council members will ask school board members to attend future Open Forums to understand what parent concerns are and what people are saying. Council wonders what happens to comments that are put into writing and where we go from there. The written comments are collected and Council members decide how to respond to them. Many people connected and shared information with each other at Open Forum, as Council members and DPI could not respond. The goal of the Open Forum should be clearer. Council members will help decide how to make attending Open Forum more worthwhile. Some parents were not clear on the purpose of Open Forum, and it resulted in a complaint session. Parents should understand the purpose is to let the Council know their concerns. The main issues of some parents seemed to be a lack of communication from their child's school. Some parents fear being identified. In the past, Open Forum was before the superintendent's conference which was not accommodating to parents who couldn't travel that far. Parents appreciate Open Forum was spread out across the state this time because most don't attend the conference.

**Additional Open Forum Comments:** Communication was problematic in one CESA – Teachers say they never heard anything about an Open Hearing and would like to participate – Find new ways of how to get the information on Open Forum out – Determine what do we do with the information from Open Forum afterwards – Need to determine process for what happens with information afterwards - Family members did not want to leave once Open Forum was over – CESA 7 need advertising options - Districts want to be aware when and where Open Forum is happening - Expression of AAC problems around the state – Decision on how to respond to people who sent emails. Are there other ways to advertise?

**Indicator 8 Parent Survey:** Council Members felt the results from the Indicator 8 Parent Survey is not indicative or does not truly represents the parents' opinions of their relationships with schools across the state.

**Positive Comments:** Jennifer Mims-Howell did a great job moderating and keeping everyone on track. She displayed a solid skill-set organizing when each CESA spoke and was efficient in keeping everything flowing smoothly. The Open Forum was good and beneficial. Council members how for the opportunity or ability to have call-in or video options at next Open Forum. Some people would call in from their homes.

**Meeting Agendas:** Council members asked how they can ensure their comments are added onto the agenda. They want to add items they would like official Council action on listed as an agenda item. To do this, Council members must email council chairpersons and Rita Fuller at least one month prior to the meeting.

**5. IDEA Complaint Findings & Decisions and Due Process Hearing Findings & Decisions:**  
Compliance complaints were presented and Council members did not ask any questions.

**6. Department of Public Instruction Report: Information and Discussion**  
Director's Report

- a. **Staffing Updates:** Barb introduced new DPI employees to Council members and explained staffing changes. After January 2018, DPI will welcome two new staff persons (Iris & Seth) in the areas of Academic Accommodations Instructional Modifications Consultant and Data Analysis. Barb announced the retirement plans of two DPI veterans and expressed DPI will be moving forward with recruitment for both of those positions.
- b. **OSEP/OSERS Update:** Johnny Collett was nominated as the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services at the U.S. Department of Education. On Friday, December 8 at 9:00 am EST, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will hold a public briefing: *The Intersection of Students of Color and Students with Disabilities, and School Discipline Policies*. Current data suggests that school discipline practices have had a profoundly negative impact on students of color and students with disabilities, and that students of color with disabilities face even higher disproportionate impact from discipline practices than white students with disabilities. Our focused investigation will examine compliance with federal laws that protect against discrimination of students of color and students with disabilities, and whether those safeguards adequately protect students of color with disabilities from discriminatory school discipline. Our own Carolyn Stanford Taylor provided written testimony.

- c. **Differentiated Monitoring & Supports:** Wisconsin was designated for universal supports in all four areas of Differentiated Monitoring and Support (DMS) by OSEP and does not require targeted or intensive monitoring. DMS is a component of Results Driven Accountability. DMS addresses State-specific needs in the areas of results, compliance, State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP), and fiscal by differentiating levels and types of monitoring and support based on each State's unique strengths, progress, and challenges in each area. I would like to extend our appreciation for your hard work and dedication to Wisconsin's students with IEPs. This would not occur without your leadership and support!
- d. **Visually Impaired Guidance Update:** On May 22, 2017, the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) issued a memorandum to State Directors of Special Education on the subject of eligibility determinations for children suspected of having a visual impairment including blindness under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). In an effort to ensure broad dissemination of their guidance, the following DPI memorandum highlights key points in relation to Wisconsin statutes and rules, provides additional guidance and shares information about resources related to this topic.
- e. **1% Guidance & Waiver Update:** As you know, under ESSA, the number of students who may take the alternate assessment, (DLM), is limited to no more than 1.0 percent of the total number of all students in the State who are assessed in a given subject. This 1% cap is at the state level, and if it is anticipated that the cap will be exceeded, the State must submit a waiver request to the United States Department of Education, which WDPI submitted on November 28, 2017. WDPI has also notified 172 LEAs that exceeded 1% during the 2016-17 school year, and as required by ESSA, asked the LEAs to complete and submit a verification form to the department that includes specific assurances. This includes the assurance that the IEP teams have correctly identified students with the most significant disabilities following state criteria and participation guidelines. More information is posted on the department website at: <https://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/dlm/1-percent-participation>
- f. **Disproportionality Rule Update:** No update to report
- g. **SEA & LEA Determination Update:** Wisconsin met requirements – one of 25 states. As part of federal requirements, each year the department must issue determinations based on LEAs ability to meet the requirements of Part B of IDEA. Notification letters for 2017 were sent to every Wisconsin LEA. This was the second year the department included results indicators (25%) in making determinations and the department will continue gradually phasing in the emphasis on results indicators over the next two years until both the compliance and results indicators are weighted equally. The criteria used in making the LEA determinations may be found at: <http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/about/state-performance-plan/determinations> and district-level information for the 2015-16 school year can be found on the Special Education District Profile: <https://apps4.dpi.wi.gov/spedprofile>
- h. **Co-Teaching Update:** This website is currently a work in progress. We are working collaboratively to create tools and resources for those in the field and will post them on this website as they are developed. We would appreciate your insight and thoughts. Visit: <https://dpi.wi.gov/sped/educators/consultation/co-teaching>
- i. **College and Career Ready IEP Website Update:** The department developed a new website on College and Career Ready IEPs. CCR IEPs align with our state's focus on College and Career Readiness and improving literacy outcomes for students with IEPs called reading Drives Achievement: Success through Literacy. Resources are continually added to the site and updated regularly. To see the website, visit: <https://dpi.wi.gov/sped/college-and-career-ready-ieps>.

## 7. Special Reports

- a. **Teacher Licensure:** David DeGuire presented on the changes to teacher licensing in Wisconsin. He explained the reason for these licensing changes are due to a huge increase in emergency licenses and permits and the inability of schools to find fully license individuals who want to stay in special education. Changes include, but are not limited to 1) Lifetime licenses on Professional and Master Educator licenses expiration dates will be removed, 2) Initial Educators and new program completers will receive 3-year provisional license, life license after 6 semesters of successful experience teaching, and do not need to complete PDP, 3) IHE faculty

can teach high school courses, 4) Virtual teachers licensed in home state, and 5) Individuals with an associate degree can be short-term sub. Related services personnel is not included in this, but IHE faculty are included at public or private school or university and they are not limited to their degree area. IHE faculty can teach high school classes, they do not have to apply for a license, and no background check is required. A letter is recommended from administration that faculty member is in good standing.

- b. **Indicator 8 Overview & Target Discussion:** Daniel Parker and Rita Fuller presented an overview of Indicator 8 (Family Engagement Survey) and lead a discussion on targets. Council members' ideas for suggested activities on improvement strategies to districts were invited and collected on paper and in a google survey collection tool. Suggestions will be added to WSPEI's suggested activities document to support LEAs with Family Engagement Planning. Targets for Indicator 8 were not set. Council members' consensus was to wait until June 2018 to establish targets for Indicator 8.
- c. **Indicator 3B & 3C Targets:** Patty Williams and Julia Hartwig presented on Indicator 3 and aimed to set targets for the next cycle. The Indicator 3 is a statewide assessment that measures participation rates of students with IEPs. The targets proposed were quantitatively rigorous, and created an alignment with the consolidated state plan under ESSA. Council member's consensus was to set targets that are consistent with the consolidated state plan under ESSA.

8. **New Business/Old Business:** None. Mike Hipple shared modules that go with the assessment packet and asked what does DPI have in place to support AAC and if nothing, can we have a place for parents to ask AAC questions and share ideas to support schools and staff with AAC? Mike Hipple feels parents are struggling in communities with support regarding AAC.

- a. **DPI Response:** Wisconsin has a Technology Initiative, but there is not a grant built around AAC. Smaller districts will use CESAs to address AAC needs. Each district approaches ACC differently based on individual capacity. There is opportunity for public hearing and comment with moving forward. Any questions can be emailed to Barb Van Haren at DPI. Jayne Bischoff is our Assistive Technology and UDL Consultant who can better answer AAC questions. Each CESA has an executive director that CESA special education directors report to.
- b. **Potential Next Meeting Topic:** Contact Paula P. or someone from her department can discuss the state report card.

## 9. Announcements

- a. Next meeting date: March 16, 2018, 10:00 am-3:00 pm, Department of Public Instruction, Room P041, 125 S. Webster Street, Madison; 608-266-1781

## 10. Public Appearances: None.

11. **Adjournment:** Chair Jennifer Mims-Howell proposed adjourning the meeting. It was seconded, and the meeting ended at 3 pm.