



**Wisconsin Council on Special Education Draft Meeting Minutes**

Date June 17, 2022

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Department of Public Instruction, Virtual Meeting

Meeting #334

**Business Meeting #334:** Daniel Parker called to order at 10:01 am. 9 of 19 council members attended and quorum was not met.

**Council Attendance:** Loucricia Carson, Judith Conlin, Pearl Fessenden, Daysi Jimenez, Jennifer Mims-Howell, Lisa Misco, Tynetta Oliver, Nikki Sprague, and Sara Zwiefelhofer.

**DPI Attendance:** Seth Bishop, Daniel Parker, Fuller, Sharon Madsen, Paul Manriquez, Marge Resan, Jill Underly, Barbara Van Haren, and Lynn Winn.

- I. Welcome
  - a. The council's chair Judy Conlin gave a welcome and introduced Barbara Van Haren to begin presentation on teacher shortages.
- II. Public Appearances
  - a. Two public appearances: Jeanette Nowak, Travis Pinter. None shared comments.
- III. Special Report: Teacher Shortages
  - a. Barbara Van Haren gave an update on teacher shortages in Wisconsin and noted the pandemic as exasperating the shortage issue. Staffing challenges are across many areas, but the presentation addressed special education teachers and related services providers. Some items of focus were the barriers or reasons why special education teachers leave their positions (attrition, transfers from special education to general education, and migration), and the three phases of traditional and non-traditional career continuum (attract and prepare, recruit, and retain). Council members asked questions for shared ideas for thoughtful consideration and discussion.
  - b. [Teacher Shortages Presentation](#)
- IV. Introduction of State Superintendent – Daniel Parker
  - a. Presentation of Service Awards for Outgoing Council by State Superintendent
  - b. The state superintendent Jill Underly provided a welcome and thank you to council members who have served a three-year term. She read a brief bio of each exiting member, and the assistant state superintendent Paul Manriquez showed plaques exiting members will receive in the mail during the presentation ceremony.

- V. Review Minutes of Meeting #333
  - a. Council members reviewed #333 meeting minutes and were reminded to take [this survey](#) by the end of today's meeting. No vote was taken to approve the minutes. The #333 meeting minutes will be revisited during the September council meeting.
- VI. Correspondence/Chairperson's Report
  - a. March Public Forum Response Letter
  - b. Review Public Forum Advertising: The Fall 2022 public forum fliers were reviewed and discussed. It was discussed the forum will be virtual and online, but not in-person this year due to staff capacity. Council members discussed ideas for advertising, barriers to brown families sharing authentic comments at the forum listening sessions, and resources.
  - c. Resources:
  - d. [WSPEI](#)
  - e. [United Community Center in Milwaukee](#)
  - f. [Alianza](#)
  - g. [English Public Forum Flier](#)
  - h. [Spanish Public Forum Flier](#)
- VII. Idea Complaint and Due Process Hearing Findings & Decisions
  - a. The council highlighted specific complaints and due process hearing findings and decisions of interest to them and asked questions. Marge Resan, DPI Compliance Consultant answered the questions.
  - b. [Complaint and Due Process Hearing Findings & Decisions](#)
- VIII. Special Education Team Director's Report:
  - a. Daniel Parker shared the Wisconsin DPI Special Education Team Administrative Updates report on Staffing Updates/Introduce New Employees, OSEP Updates/Regulations, DPI Updates, Grant Updates, and Bulletins & Guidance.
  - b. [Updates report](#)
- IX. Special Report: State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report: Review of Stakeholder Process and Submitted Report and Data
  - a. Seth Bishop presented on what the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) did with all the information council provided as stakeholders in the indicators target setting process last year. DPI came up with two core areas in which lessons were learned (race matters and collaboration is difficult) and two broad buckets for indicators (Compliance and Results). There is more room for improvement.
  - b. Targets were finalized for years 2020-2025. Stakeholder report will be available June 23, 2022.
  - c. Council discussed the questions: How does the data and input align with Council's mission and vision? Where is there dissonance? What are lessons you have learned regarding collaboration with? How would you like us to collaborate with, as it relates to the State Superintendent's Council on Special Education?

- d. [Wisconsin's State Performance Plan for 2020-25: Lessons Learned and Discussion Presentation](#)
  - e. [IEP Performance Plan Stakeholder Report](#)
  - f. [IEP Performance Plan Appendices](#)
- X. Lunch
- XI. Special Report: Professional Learning Needs for Staff Educating Students with Disabilities and Recommendations for Statewide Professional Development
- a. Daniel Parker provided an overview on Wisconsin DPI Professional Learning Supports for families with children with disabilities. It highlighted DPI investments in discretionary grants and other grant projects providing statewide supports, regional supports, and targeted supports to families. The council discussed the following questions:
  - b. What grades or roles in schools require the most training and professional learning opportunities? What recommendations do council have on prioritizing statewide professional learning? What are the best ways of providing professional learning (e.g. virtual versus in-person community of practice, conference, workshops, regional meetings, etc)?
  - c. [Professional Learning Supports Presentation](#)
- XII. Special Report: Council Priorities Discussion
- a. Council members discussed making a couple recommendations to the state superintendent that says:
  - b. Recommend to the state superintendent the professional development focused on high quality, evidence based, culturally responsive instruction for all be provided to district teams composed of general education teachers, special education teachers, administrators, and paraprofessionals, with supports and implementation at the building level and provided by DPI staff, Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA) staff, Response to Intervention (RTI) Center staff and that this work be funded with stipends for out of school time work and/or district in-service times. We further recommend to the state superintendent that professional development data be gathered and evaluated quarterly to determine implementation effectiveness and make changes as needed based on the data.
  - c. The council did not make a vote on this recommendation. There was not quorum, but the council will share the recommendation with the state superintendent to consider while council waits to vote on this recommendation at the next meeting.
  - d. The council reviewed 12 of 19 members' survey results on which topics are of interest to discuss next year: Teacher Professional Development and Retention (8) Mental Health and Safe and Supportive Students (8), Implementing IEPs (6), Special Education Funding (6), Staffing Shortages (5), Parent and Family Engagement (5), Least Restrictive Environment (5), Effective Instruction (4), Behavior Supports and Interventions (3), Transition to Postsecondary (3), Needs of Rural and Urban Schools (3), Assistive Technology (2), Dyslexia and Learning Disabilities (1).

XIII. Old Business

- a. Suggested Agenda Topics for September's Meeting
  - i. This was discussed and noted in council priorities discussion section above. The council showed favor in a Quantitative Data report in September's council meeting and a Qualitative Data report in December's council meeting. The council mentioned additional topics to consider next year is how to better inform and get information out to families (Parent/Family Engagement Topic) regarding their rights and supports that can and should be available to them.
  - ii. Council discussed a possible recommendation to the state superintendent is: Recommend that there be pamphlet or brochure, or something that's regionally provides one of the parent resources that you could hand out at an IEP meeting that would be developed for council, so the council does not have to create it on their own. DPI has similar resources they will share with the council to provide suggestions.
- b. Council Member Reports and Issues
  - i. Districts should highlight in IEPs what is most important for families to read.
  - ii. 504 plans
- c. 2022-2023 Meetings Calendar
  - i. The council reviewed the calendar dates for the 2022-2023 year.
- d. Discuss Preferences: In-Person Council Meetings or virtual for 2022-2023
  - i. Several council members commented virtual council meetings work best for their capacity, for attracting a wide variety of people to serve on council and attend meetings quarterly, separating members into useful and easy to assemble breakout sessions, and keeping the council members on task. The public forums will continue to be virtual.

XIV. Announcements

- a. Next Meeting Date (September 23, 2022)
- b. Draft 2022-2023 Calendar Dates

XV. Public Appearances

- a. Three public appearances: Jeanette Nowak, Travis Pinter, and Rose Scott. Travis Pinter shared a few comments during the meeting's session, as he will be Jennifer Mims-Howell's successor on the council beginning September.

XVI. Adjournment

- a. Nikki Sprague motioned to adjourn the meeting and Daysi Jimenez seconded the motion. All members were in favor of the motion and said, Aye. Meeting adjourned at 3:04pm.