

Wisconsin Council on Special Education Final Minutes

Date June 19, 2020

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Department of Public Instruction, Virtual Meeting

Meeting #326

DPI Attendance: Patti Williams, Julia Hartwig, Daniel Parker, Courtney Jenkins, Tracy (guest), Barb Van Haren, Carolyn Stanford Taylor, Seth Bishop, Laura Pinsonneault, Lynn Winn, Mark Pioli, Jennifer Giles, Nancy Furhman, Fil Clissa, Rita Fuller

Council Attendance: Loucricia Carson, Hugh Davis, Meredith Dressel, Nicole Froelke, Pamela Hencke, Julie Lidbury, Amanda Mack, Kelley Mechelke, Jennifer Mims-Howell, Nelsinia Ramos, Deb Rathermel, Nikki Sprague, Amy Stevens, Sara Zwiefelhofer, Nicki Vander Meulen, Michelle Johnson, Vicki Davis

Public Appearance: One public appearance was present.

I. Chair Report

- a. Meeting called to order by Council's chair Pamela Hencke at 10:06. The chair went over housekeeping tips for the meeting and discussed the Executive Order #79 from the Governor's Office.

II. State Superintendent's Presentation to Outgoing Council Members

- a. Julia Hartwig introduced the State Superintendent.
- b. State Superintendent honored outgoing members by reading their bios, presenting plaques, and thanking them for their service.

III. Chair Report (continued)

- a. During the March 13th Council meeting, members didn't meet quorum, so council wasn't able to review, vote and approve January meeting minutes #324. Council reviewed and made motion to approval minutes from council meeting #324 and #325. Motion made to approve meeting minutes #324. Nicki Vander Meulen, moved to approve. And Deb Rathermel seconded. Council voted to approve minutes for meeting #324. Motion made to approve minutes #325 by Hugh Davis and Julie Lidbury seconded the motion to vote to approve meeting minutes.
- b. Council member requested revision and completion to the working council document titled 'Council Priorities' that was initially started on the January 24th meeting and again revised on the March 13th meeting. Council chair will prepare 'council priorities' document for September meeting.

IV. Special Report: Input on State Report Cards (Laura Pinsonneault and Patrick Chambers)

- a. This special report focused on the redesign of state report cards. The department is working on visual changes to represent opportunity and achievement gaps between various groups of students.
- b. Cabinet supported the use of a single target group for purposes of gap calculations and supported proposal to apply a multiple measures approach to evaluating target group outcomes.
- c. Cabinet commented that the target group identified in school report cards reflect and support our focus on continuous improvement, that the report cards were equity-focused, and felt the report cards would be more manageable for school staff.

V. Chair Report (continued)

- a. Public forum follow-up was discussed regarding the spring public forum completed in early March
 - i. 113 long answer/very detailed comments were received which will provide a great deal of feedback
 - ii. Council chairs will work on compiling the Public Forum comments into specific topic issues for tabulation and recording purposes.
 - iii. Additionally, a public response letter will be compiled which will identify areas of concern regarding special education.
- b. IDEA Complaint Decisions
 - i. Patti Williams was available for questions regarding any IDEA complaints and decisions. Information on recent complaints is also available on the special education website and include links to the final decisions for the council to review.
 - ii. Patti Williams provided an update on guidance related to school closures. The DPI website has extensive information available and as we move forward, we will be adding new questions about returning to school, graduation, students who aged out, what requirements related to students with medical fragility, and guidance related to return to school in the fall will regarding COVID-19, delivery of special education services, and evaluations.
 - iv. DPI also provided guidance related to whether an interruption in services requires additional services to be added to the IEP. The information is available on the DPI COVID-19 special education web page.

VI. Director's report (Julia Hartwig)

- a. The special education team director thanked outgoing council members and explained our division has hired no new staff at this time.
- b. Updated COVID-19 guidance can be found at <https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/2019-novel-coronavirus>: Special education guidance can be found at <https://dpi.wi.gov/sped/covid-19-sped-updates-and-resources>:
- c. Resources on the new seclusion and restraint law are in development and slated

for release soon.

- d. Changes to IDEA data collections for Indicator 8 and Indicator 14 can be found at <https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sped/pdf/covid-district-action.pdf>
- e. DPI began the first step in the rule change process to add Deaf/Blindness as a disability category as well as changing Hearing Impairment to Deaf/Hard of Hearing as well as Visual Impairment to Blind/Visually Impaired.
- f. Education interpreter license renewal changes went into effect June 1.
Education interpreter substitute license administrative rule: will update when public hearing is scheduled.

VII. APR/SSIP Report (Courtney Reed Jenkins & Lynn Winn)

- a. Robust stakeholder engagement process is used to determine focus areas.
- b. Wisconsin consistently meets requirements under determination that OSEP makes annually.
- c. DPI asked council what our state should be looking at as our focus? Literacy is a definite key to success, but we need to know, based on our current results, should we consider narrowing the band.
- d. Presenters posed 2 questions to council for feedback:
 - Should the SiMR remain focused on grades 3-8 or be narrowed?
 - What strategies have the greatest likelihood of improving outcomes for learners with IEPs?

VIII. BPDD Report (Fil Clissa)

- a. BPDD requested input on their five-year state plan renewal; asking for feedback from council on educational priorities.
- b. BPDD updated council on the Self-Determination virtual conference, which will be held October 26th-October 28th.

IX. New & Old Business

- a. Public Forum comments from March survey as discussed earlier.
- b. Council member reports – none shared
- c.. Additional topics:
 - i. Council Chairperson Pamela Hencke thanked DPI Special Education Staff for their support and leadership during March-June. Also greatly appreciated the webinar on Virtual IEPs, which had over 500+ attendees in April.
 - ii. Tentative Fall Public Forum will be October 14th-this will be discussed at September meeting.
 - iii. DPI staff will share council calendar again with council members.
 - iv. Council Annual Report will be worked on over the next couple months.
 - v. The Council Priorities Grid will be completed for the September meeting.
- d. Online Conferences
 - i. Endless Possibilities Conference being held August 7th.
 - ii. State Superintendent's 2020 conference will be virtual-November 17th-18th and information will be forthcoming.
 - iii. Annual Children's Come First Conference (virtual) Hugh Davis shared will be November 9th.

iv. ASSEW Gala Conference on Autism happening on June 19th

X. Adjournment

Motion to end meeting #326, Deb Rathermel. Hugh Davis and Jennifer Mims-Howell seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 1:58pm.