

## **Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting Minutes**

Office of Public Instruction  
1300 11th Avenue Conference Room, Helena  
January 13-14, 2011

Members in Attendance: Tim Norbeck, Vaughn Kauffman, Lora Griffin, Bob Stansberry, Dave Mahon, Dustin Shipman, Christa Seger, Jim Marks, Terry Galle, Erica Swanson, Cody Preston, Rena Steyaert, Pam Campbell

Excused Members: Mick Leary, Sharon Tregidga, Edith McClafferty

Non-Members in Attendance: Tim Harris, Frank Podobnik, Steve York, Dick Trerise, Mary Gallagher, Paula Kitzke, Marlene Wallis

Chairperson Tim Norbeck called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The Panel members, OPI staff and visitors introduced themselves.

### **Thursday, January 13, 2011**

The Panel reviewed the Proposed Agenda. Dave Mahon moved to accept the Proposed Agenda, Vaughn Kaufmann seconded the motion and the motion passed. The Proposed Agenda was accepted as written.

The Panel reviewed the Minutes of the October 7-8, 2010, Panel meeting. Vaughn Kauffman moved to accept the minutes, Rena Steyaert seconded the motion and the motion passed. The minutes of the October 7-8, 2010, Panel meeting were accepted as written.

### **OPI SPED Report**

Tim Harris reported to the Panel that the Special Education Division, at this time, is not fully staffed. He introduced Janine O'Connor, administrative support for the Division, and said that Jan Duiker would join the division shortly. Jan will be part of the Data and Accountability Unit. The RTI Specialist position has not been filled.

It was announced that Tim Harris received the Glenn I. Latham Award from the Center for Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE) at the Center for Persons with Disabilities at Utah State University. This award is presented each year to an individual working at the state level that: has made contributions to improving services for children with disabilities at the local, state and regional levels; shows ongoing compassion and dedication in the area of special education; demonstrates leadership; promotes results for children with disabilities; keeps the main thing the main thing for children with disabilities; and processes similar characteristics and philosophy of special education as Dr. Latham.

This is a great honor for Tim and for the state of Montana.

### **CSPD Report**

Nikki Sandve said that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mental Health Conference will be held in Helena on March 3 and 4, 2011.

Nikki said that there are five CSPD Regions. She explained the project application the regions complete and how they connect to the State Performance Plan (SPP) and the data that CSPD receives for each region.

## **OPI Report**

Assistant Superintendent Steve York reported on “What is Going on at OPI.”

### Quaglia Institute

Steve reported that thanks to the Pearson Foundation and the Quaglia Institute, there are somewhere near 19,000 6th-12<sup>th</sup>-grade students signed up to complete the “My Voice” survey, which is at or above 25 percent of the 6th-12<sup>th</sup>- grade students in the state. Statewide data will be available in February.

Dr. Quaglia will give a series of presentations for administrators, counselors and MBI school leaders March 1-3.

### Career and Tech Ed-MCIS

The Big SKY Pathways program is rolled out and available. Part of the process is the newly designed Montana Career Information System. Access at:

<http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/cgi/career/?PAGEID=3&SUBID=173>

### Health Enhancement

There will likely be bullying legislation that will focus on a standard definition and required policy.

The OPI and partners asked for an earmark through Senator Tester last year to make available an internet-based training program for middle school-aged kids titled Web Wise Kids. We did not get it, but will resubmit a request this year.

The Safe and Drug-Free Schools monies are gone for the formula grant. We did get a \$125,000 bridge grant to coordinate ongoing Safe and Drug-Free School activities.

### ESEA-Title I

Steve said that the reauthorization talk is picking up. One common theme clear in the Obama Administration’s plan is to move from looking at highly qualified teachers to high-quality teaching and, ultimately, to teacher effectiveness.

Annual Measurable Objectives rise this year. One bright spot is that making safe harbor is statistically much narrower at higher levels of success than it is when schools have large numbers not making proficiency. Change needs to occur at the federal level for this change, as we are locked in by our state grant.

Four districts in the state are involved in an intensive improvement process under the School Improvement Grant. These schools are the lowest achieving schools in the state.

### Accreditation and Curriculum

National Common Core Standards have been released and adopted by 40-41 states. Montana is working on alignment, but has not yet adopted them. That decision should come late this spring.

The chapter 55-Accreditation Standards review is moving along. There is a subcommittee of the task force that is looking into upgrading the accreditation requirement around teacher and administrator evaluation.

### Indian Education

Indian Education continues to do great work in both the delivery of guidance around IEFA and in tracking the closing of the Indian Achievement Gap.

The division's largest concern is the General Fund funding source and anything to do with the General Fund is a concern this legislative session.

### Legislature

The primary push beyond saving the budget is Senate Bill 44 to raise the age of required attendance to 18.

### **CSPD/Professional Development**

Nikki Sandve reported on Project REAL: Responsive Education for All Learners. This project is designed to address three goals: Capacity Building; Support to LEAs; and Low-Incidence Support. The OPI will provide leadership for the activities that are designed to address each of these goals, with partnerships with personnel at the University of Montana, Parents, Let's Unite for Kids and the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind. The activities will engage a statewide network of consultants and facilitators who have been trained to support schools in adopting evidence-based models and instructional strategies shown to be effective in addressing needs of diverse students.

### **State Performance Report (SPP) and Annual Performance Report (APR)**

The remainder of Thursday's meeting and Friday's meeting was devoted to the State Performance Report (SPP) and the Annual Performance Report (APR).

Frank Podobnik reviewed Indicators 1-20 in the State Performance Report (SPP) with the Panel.

### **Public Comment**

Chairperson Tim Norbeck asked if there were public comments. There were none.

### **Adjourn**

Dustin Shipman moved to adjourn the meeting for the day, Terry Galle seconded the motion and the motion passed. The Panel adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

### **Friday, January 14, 2011**

### **State Performance Report (SPP) and Annual Performance Report (APR) (Continued)**

Frank Podobnik and the Panel continued to review and discuss the 20 Indicators in the State Performance Report.

The Panel reviewed and discussed the Part B State Annual Performance Report (APR) for FFY 2009. This report serves as Montana's accountability report on its performance relative to state performance targets identified in its State Performance Plan (SPP). Following the review, Vaughn Kauffman made the motion for the Panel to support the Annual Performance Report as it was presented to the Panel, Christa Seger seconded the motion and the Panel unanimously passed the motion to support the Annual Performance Report for FFY 2009.

### **Meeting Dates**

May 5-6, 2011 (Joint Meeting with CSPD)

### **Agenda Items**

Joint Meeting with CSPD

### **Adjourn**

Dave Mahon moved to adjourn the meeting, Terry Galle seconded the motion and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.