

Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting Minutes
School Administrators of Montana
900 N. Montana Ave., Suite A-4, Helena
September 13-14, 2012

Members in Attendance: Bob Stansberry, Erica Swanson, Dave Marzolf, Vaughn Kauffman, Tia Davis, Dawn Piazzzi, Jim Marks, Lora Griffin, Chris Bilant, Theresa Baldry, Diana Tavary, Carolyn Prill, Marvin Williams, Sharon Tregidga, Doug Dellwo

Excused Members: Lily Wahl, Doug Roberts, Sharon Tregedga (Thursday), Erica Swanson (Friday), and Mick Leary (Friday), Edith McClafferty

Non-Members in Attendance: Frank Podobnik, Dale Kimmet, Steve York, Dick Trerise, John Copenhaver, Mary Gallagher, Danni McCarthy, Anne Rainey, Issac Baldry, Marlene Wallis,

Thursday, September 13, 2012

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

The Panel reviewed the Proposed Agenda. Vaughn Kauffman moved to accept the Proposed Agenda, Carolyn Prill seconded the motion and the motion passed. The Proposed Agenda was accepted as written.

The Panel reviewed the Minutes of the June 26, 2012, Panel meeting Lora Griffin moved to accept the minutes, Jim Marks seconded the motion and the motion passed. The Minutes of the June 26, 2012, Panel meeting were accepted as written.

Special Education Division Report

Frank Podobnik noted that his position as the Special Education State Director is now official. The division consists of 18 full-time staff and 80 part-time seasonal employees. Frank distributed a list of the division's units and contacts and the attached personnel to the division. The Special Education Division also works with other divisions within the Office of Public Instruction and other state agencies. The list is included with the minutes.

OPI Report—Steve York

Assistant Superintendent Steve York brought the Panel up to date as to what is going on at the OPI.

The "My Voice" Survey will be provided to the state for free. Last year 112 schools, 26,000 students, took the survey.

This year's goal for the Big Sky Pathways program is to provide more educational information about the pathways to administrators and counselors.

Adult Basic Education is moving forward with the GED Options program which will be rigorous, but will allow some FED seekers to walk at graduation and allow schools to maintain funding for students in the options program.

Legislation will be proposed to increase the state funding for Career and Technical Education. This increase would be used to support the various CTE Student Organizations.

The USDA has required a new menu and it has met with quite a bit of concerns about meal portions.

Superintendent Denise Juneau held a Graduation Matters summit in July that was a huge success. Over 4,000 students have taken the "I Pledge to Graduate" challenge.

Project REAL

Annette Young reported on Project REAL and CSPD. Project REAL has three main goals; Capacity Building—increase state-level capacity to provide leadership, professional development and guidance to schools; Support to LEAs—increase the number of schools in Montana that are implementing evidence-based practices within multi-tiered models; and Low-Incidence Support—provide technical assistance and support to improve access to the general education curriculum for students who need high levels of support.

Advisory Panel Orientation

Dick Trerise introduced John Copenhaver to the members of the Panel. John represents the Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center (MPRRC). Mr. Copenhaver has experience in special education at the school district, state, regional, and national levels. Before joining the TAESE/MPRRC staff, Mr. Copenhaver served as a special education resource teacher, school psychologist, and special education director. His work at TAESE and the MPRRC has involved providing technical assistance at the school, state, regional, and national levels. Mr. Copenhaver has extensive experience in Indian education. He provides technical assistance to states regarding their State Performance Plan, Annual Performance Report, and Levels of Determination.

John said the purpose of the orientation was to provide Panel members with an overview of their purpose and functions and provide a heads up for Panel members on emerging regional and national issues.

John distributed an Orientation Meeting packet to the Panel members. He advised the members that within the packet is "A Primer for State Special Education Advisory Panel Members and SEA Staff" that the Panel will be going through during the orientation. A transition wheel was also included in the packet that is a "Road Map to Success" for preschool, K-3, grades 4-6 and

grades 7-8. It explains what LEAs should do in the various grade levels when planning for lifespan transition.

John noted that the IDEA will probably be reauthorized in 2013 and the Panel will be part of this by reviewing regulations and commenting on the reauthorization.

John led the Panel members through the “Primer,” which included the Advisory Panel Functions, membership (areas of representation), responsibility of the Panel to advise, not advocate, meeting procedures, and other areas noted in the “Primer.”

It was noted that the Panel serves without compensation, attends reasonable and necessary meetings and may request interpreters. The Panel needs to provide input for Advisory Panel agenda items. The meetings are open for public comment with ground rules and official minutes are taken.

Following the orientation, the Panel adjourned for the day.

Friday, September 14, 2012

Chairperson Bob Stansberry called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Parents, Let’s Unite for Kids

Diana Tavary reported on issues that PLUK is concerned with. One of the issues was teaching parents how to teach parents. It was suggested that parents be trained so they can help each other.

Early Assistance/Complaints/Due Process

Mary Gallagher informed the Panel that Legal Services provides early assistance with disputes at different levels of involvement. The program is designed to provide technical assistance to parents and school districts regarding the delivery of a free appropriate public education for students with disabilities. The program intent is to intervene prior to or at the time of filing a complaint with the OPI and at this point the Early Assistance Program will gather information from parents, schools and those who are involved with the issue and attempt to resolve the problem within 15 school days. The result is to resolve issues and prevent costly legal involvements wherever possible.

Monitoring Identified Noncompliance Frequency for 2011-12

Dick Trerise and Danni McCarthy presented the Panel with the Special Education Monitoring State Findings Report. The report is part of the minutes.

They explained that the Special Education Division has four compliance monitors and that monitoring is done on a five-year cycle. The OPI offers All Teacher Training. Technical

Assistance is also offered to individual districts and schools to make sure they are in compliance with IDEA. The schools/districts are informed of the date they will be monitored.

A report is provided to the district/school to inform them of the findings of the compliance monitoring team and will provide, if necessary, a corrective action plan for items out of compliance.

Call for Public Comments

The chairperson called for public comments; there were none.

Additional Items

Preview of January meeting: APR/SPP Report—Panel will be asked to support the submission of the report following the review.

Meeting Dates: January 17-18, 2013
May 2-3, 2013

Agenda Items: ESEA Recertification

Adjourn

Marilyn Davis moved to adjourn the meeting, Diana Tavery seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.