



WAPSD

Wyoming Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities

September 12, 2019, 9:00 a.m., Wyoming State Library, Cheyenne, WY

Attendance: Rachel Crawford, Ann Armel, Nikki Baldwin, Shannon Cranmore, Kathy Escobedo, Penny Hawk, Davey Hough, Dallas Myers, Renee Morrison, Anedra Selley, Hayley Speiser, Pam Zamora, Margee Robertson, Jennifer Duncan

Guests: Kascinda Fleming, WDE; Mike Flicek, WDE; Antoinette Hallam, WDE; Thom Jones, WDE; Deana Smith, WDE; Jill Gallegos, Laramie County School District #1

MOTIONS

Administrative:

It was moved by _____ and Seconded by Ann Armel that the June Meeting Minutes be approved as written with the changes mentioned by Rachel Crawford. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Crawford noted that the minutes needed to be changed to reflect that Rachel was elected chair and Erin Swilling was elected chair-elect.

Policy: No policy motions offered

Welcome/Opening: Rachel Crawford kicked off the meeting and went around the room for welcome introductions. Mission/vision statements were read, June meeting minutes were reviewed then opened the floor for any public comment. There was no public comment.

Secretary Announcements, Jennifer Duncan: Board Secretary Jennifer Duncan reported that Jami Clifford and Cadence Johnson have both resigned from the committee. Their positions will need to be filled: Jami's position was as a parent of a disabled child and Cadence's position was a student with a disability.

Chair Report – Old and New Business, Rachel Crawford

Chairman Crawford encouraged board members to think of individuals they know that would be beneficial to the board and to provide application paperwork to them.

Margee Robertson introduced Shannon Cranmore, who is with the WDE but will represent the McKinney-Vento Program on the WAPSD Panel. Robertson introduced other members of the WDE staff that were presenting.

Robertson also reviewed the necessity of the WAPSD Panel as a requirement of special education law and that certain groups must be represented on the board and it must consist of half parents or students with disabilities. A representative from the state Department of Family Services is needed as well as filling the openings left by Clifford and Johnson's resignations.

Chairman Crawford shared her experience attending the OSEP Conference. She attended sessions on Pre-K to Kindergarten transition, and found that many states have a very coherent and complete process with both this transition as well as Elementary to High School transition. Another session of interest was one regarding Math intervention, something that Crawford doesn't feel is addressed as much as is necessary. A 37% nationwide drop nationwide in teaching being chosen as a profession is another national concern and Crawford was able to discuss this with Senator Barrassos's office.

Chairman Crawford complimented the WDE on the WAVE Conference and heard several positive comments from others that attended. Crawford noted that the state accommodations forms for Wy-TOPP don't read the same as the accommodations check list that was recently sent out to Special Education teachers.

During the last panel meeting it was decided that Chairman Crawford would draft a letter to introduce the panel to the legislature and address the panel's concerns over the cap placed on Special Education. Letter will be sent to Jennifer Duncan to be placed on letterhead and sent to legislators after the panel makes comments and recommendations on the letter. State Special Education Director Margee Robertson provided more in depth information about how placing this cap on Special Education can affect the ability of the WDE and school districts to provide what is needed to students that is required by the Federal law.

Crawford and Robertson have visited about finding better ways to get information disseminated to teachers from the WDE.

Dallas Meyers contacted the Legislative Service Office about the upcoming cap on Special Education spending and making it retroactive, which will help with future calculations.

DBI, Thom Jones, WDE and Jill Gallegos, Laramie County School District #1

Jones and Gallegos shared information about the Data Base Intervention system that has been introduced at Laramie County School District #1 and presented a video that they made interviewing students, parents, teachers and administrators sharing their experiences were and the positive outcomes. DBI is currently only being used in Laramie 1, but upcoming trainings around the state will be done for those districts that are interested.

ALT-Access

Antoinette Hallam and Mike Flicek updated the board on the current information for access to the ALT assessment for active English learners. Hallam reviewed the process for identifying English Learning, the various proficiency levels that are revealed from the assessment. It is currently used in over 40 states and 400 countries worldwide.

Mike Flicek continued to explain that the assessment is in place to determine what the definition of English proficiency is. About 50 children take this test. Prior to this assessment, there was no district level accountability for English learner proficiency. Proficiency is expected within 6 years. All information regarding student progress is available to schools on the WDE website.

WyALT and 1% Cap – Kascinda Fleming, WDE

Margee Robertson provided a link to the guiding documents that Kascinda Fleming is reviewing to all members in attendance. A committee was formed last fall to review the guiding documents for Wy-ALT access. The new document contains links to provide more information and information about where to find other WDE resources to assist with making the decision about which students can take the WY-ALT

assessment. The Wyoming Alternate Assessment Participation Guidance Criteria is for IEP teams to utilize in their decision making and is really the meat of the document. Taking this assessment can impact a student's certificate or diploma at graduation, so a well informed decision is necessary due to the large impact. There will be several training webinars available for the Wy-ALT as well as the ALT-Access. This assessment is targeted for the most severely cognitively disabled students, which is approximately 1% of the students in the state.

The Federal government has set 1% as the maximum percentage of statewide students that should be taking this assessment. All students should have access to a rigorous education and high expectations, keeping the percentage at 1% will eliminate students being underserved. Dallas Myers expressed concern that the high school diploma should mean something, not only academically but as well as soft skills acquisition.

State Determinations/Discuss Parent Engagement RFP, Margee Robertson, WDE

Wyoming received a determination of "Meets Requirements" from OSEP. In the area of monitoring Wyoming is under "Universal Monitoring" in all areas, which means WDE can call when they need support but that no particular area is being looked at with more detail.

Results from the WDE monitoring for district determinations have been received, 15 districts fall into the "Meets Requirements" category; 4 districts fall into the "Needs Intervention" category, with the majority falling into "Needs Assistance" category. Letters will be mailed out soon. Margee Robertson presented the information and would like to see the process hone in a little more on measuring areas that are more meaningful to providing a strong academic education for children in the general population and the special education population.

The upcoming WAVE Conference in the summer will be focusing on areas that arise from the WDE drilling down into the data that has come back from the monitoring visits. The WDE will also be focusing on increasing parent engagement in their children's education with regard to disabilities, developing IEP's, etc. Robertson asked for input: parent education summits regarding parent rights; checking around the state in a non-typical district and create a template of parent involvement or find a district that is doing it well and get information from them; creating documents that are more parent friendly;

Transition CDC to Elementary, Deana Smith

Deana Smith informed the panel about her upcoming summit to facilitate a conversation between CDC's and elementary schools to provide a smooth transition from Pre-k to Kindergarten. SPED Directors, building principals. Smith comes from the background of being a Kindergarten teacher and a parent.

Margee Robertson asked for input from the panel on issues to be addressed at the summit.

- The relationship between the school district and the CDC is important.
- Do CDC's have access to occupational and speech therapists that districts have? Pre-K is more academic than it used to be so more resources are needed. CDC's are on their own, districts don't typically provide those services.

Robertson encouraged panel members to email other thoughts.

WDE SPED Director Academy

The panel was able to participate in the inaugural Director's Academy presented by the WDE via the Zoom Network. Monthly webinars will be presented on a variety of subjects that have been provided by SPED Directors around the state.

Advice, Recommendations and Action Steps

Mail out Superintendent Appointment Letter to Nikki Hulme

Update Model Forms to more closely align with the Assessment

Increase teacher communication

Strive to encourage a positive view of parents by teachers

Follow up on New Members applications – Ashley Robertson

Keep updating WAPSD page on SPED website

Possibly add WAPSD to WINWeb

The next meeting is scheduled for:

December 12, 2019 via Zoom, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

We will keep the 9 am start and each meeting's end time will depend on the agenda for that day.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ann Armel. The motion was seconded by Kathy Escobedo. The meeting was adjourned.