



WAPSD

Wyoming Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities

December 12, 2019, 1:00 p.m., Zoom Teleconference Meeting

Attendance: Ammon Bullinger, Rachel Crawford, Jennifer Duncan Margee Robertson, Ann Armel, Anedra Selley, Ashley Robertson, Christine Bullinger, Erin Swilling, Hayley Speiser, Kathy Escobedo, Nicky Hulme, Nikki Baldwin, Pam Zamora, Rachel Crawford, Renee Morrison, Shelley Hamel

Guests: Deana Smith, WDE; Marissa Wilkins, WDE

MOTIONS

Administrative:

It was moved by Renee Morrison and Seconded by Christine Bullinger that the September Meeting Minutes be approved as written.

Policy: No policy motions offered

Welcome/Opening: Chairman Crawford called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. There was no public comment. Crawford read the Mission and Vision Statements for the Panel.

Chair Report – Old and New Business, Rachel Crawford

Ann Armel, Membership Committee Chair, introduced Ashley Robertson as the newest member of the WAPSD Panel representing Parents of a Child with a Disability.

Ann asked if the Panel was still working on a Member to represent the Department of Family Services. Erin Swilling has contacted an individual by the name of Abby Lane to fill that position, Abby is waiting on approval from her Supervisor, and then she will apply.

Chairman Crawford reviewed the letter that was sent to the Joint Education Interim Committee. She heard back from Legislators Eric Arian and John Freeman. Arian expressed concern as well regarding the 1% Cap, Freeman was hopeful they could lift the cap during the upcoming session, but he was not optimistic about the outcome.

Chairman Crawford asked about the status of the WAPSD page on the WDE website, Jennifer Duncan reported that updated information had been added and the Panel expressed interest in having an archive of past Panel minutes. Crawford also asked if the confirmation letter was sent out to Nicky Hulme, Jennifer Duncan affirmed that had been done.

Parent Engagement Contracts

Jennifer Duncan updated the Panel regarding two contracts that are in process, one for Wyoming Hands & Voices and the Parent Information Center. Both organizations are in the process of providing the WDE with information about the family engagement trainings and the purpose of them. The contracts

are for the WDE to financially support both organizations with their annual conferences to offset the cost of speaker honorarium, venue costs, and speaker travel.

Erin Swilling, with the Parent Information Center, noted that there are local trainings as well as a statewide conference to increase capacity within communities and families by providing access to the information and data. Swilling also asked the Panel to think about the needs throughout the state and to let her know so they can potentially be incorporated into the trainings.

January 10, 2020 Transition CDC to Elementary Summit Update, Deana Smith

The Early Childhood to Kindergarten Transition Summit will be held in Casper at the Casper Events Center on January 10, 2020. Dana Winters with the Fred Rogers Institute will be the keynote speaker and she will also be providing training. Training will include best practices and the afternoon will be comprised of collaborative time for Child Development Centers and their Districts to work on a plan for transition of Special Education Students from Pre-school to Kindergarten. Registration is almost full.

There are a variety of relationships between CDC's and Districts around the state, some more cooperative than others. The collaborative time is designed to provide ideas and discussion around how to make this process more seamless.

Information regarding the summit was sent out to Special Education Directors, Curriculum Coordinators, Building Principals and Parent Information Groups to have a wide reaching influence.

Legislative Update, Shelley Hamel

Chief of Academics Shelley Hamel provided an update on the interim legislative committee meetings and the recalibration effort. Out of the JEIC there is a draft bill to amend a current statute that addresses truancy and absence. The bill draft clarifies the difference between students who are willfully missing school and parents who are being neglectful by not getting their children to school. Senator Ellis has revamped her school safety bill that did not pass last session and the JEIC seemed more interested in this bill and were willing to put it forth during the session. Another bill regarding remote education, which is different than distance education, is also potentially being introduced. This will allow Districts who are neighbors can work together without going through the Virtual Education Approval process, allowing classes to be taught between those two districts without extra steps and bureaucracy. The Special Education Funding Cap is in its second year, the legislation regarding this is set to sunset, which means legislation needs to be brought forward to continue the cap. Hamel hasn't heard about an organized effort to continue the cap, but with it being a budget session it could appear as a line item in the budget.

The Recalibration Funding Model is up for its 5 year review. Proposals were submitted and reviewed and Picus and Oden were selected. They have worked with the state for many years. Their model is an evidence based funding model for school districts to continue to do business and they helped created the funding streams in Wyoming and they are very familiar with the state. They offer a menu of options for recalibration, they like their model to reflect best practices over a 4-6 year period. They then divide the areas of funding into several different areas for consideration. The recalibration effort also showed that pre-k education would be beneficial to school success and for the legislature to consider making pre-k education part of the model. Transportation, food services, distance education via Google were also looked at in detail.

Chairman Crawford was especially interested in supporting the bill regarding truancy and unexcused absenteeism. She asked the Panel for the best ways to show support and back up for this legislation.

Ann Armel suggested writing a letter to support the proposed legislation. Erin Swilling asked for clarifications on the definitions of intentional truancy versus parents who have barriers getting their children to school and students who may have barriers i.e., mental illness, anxiety, depression, to getting to school. Hamel noted that there are different types of reporting based on the specific situation.

Ann Armel will be sending information to Jennifer Duncan about workshops that DVR is going around the state to assist with the transition of students from high school to the workforce or to college. Jennifer will send this out to the Panel

Schedule 2020 Meeting Dates

The Panel will stick with the same type of schedule they currently have, meeting in Casper in person for the first 3 meetings, and meeting via Zoom in December. The following is the schedule:

March 17, 2020 in Casper

*June 10, 2020, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. evening meeting over dinner

June 11, 2020 in Casper with John Copenhaver training

September 8, 2020 in Casper

December 8, 2020 via Zoom

March 9, 2021 in Casper

June 8-9, 2021 in Casper

*All meetings will be from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at Natrona County School District #1, Fairdale Room unless otherwise noted.

Advice, Recommendations and Action Steps

Panel submit ideas for PIC trainings to Erin Swilling

Shelley Hamel will send hyperlink of education bills to Panel, potential letter of support for truancy/absenteeism from schools bill

Send Early Childhood – Kindergarten Transition Summit information to Panel

Send out information to Panel regarding DVR trainings around the state

Update Model Forms to more closely align with the Assessment

Increase teacher communication

Keep updating WAPSD page on SPED website

Continue to pursue individual from DFS to sit on Panel

A motion to adjourn was made by Anedra Selley. The motion was seconded by Ann Armel. The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for:

March 17, 2020 in Casper at Natrona County School District #1 and also via Zoom, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.