



WAPSD

Wyoming Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities

June 8, 2021, Fire Rock Restaurant, Casper, Wyoming

Attendance: Amon Bullinger, Ashley Robertson, Char Norris, Christine Bullinger, Deana Smith, Erin Swilling, Grace Norris, Jennifer Duncan, Liz Acosta-McCune, Margee Robertson, TJ Mechem

Guests: Thom Jones, WDE; Susan Shipley, WDE

MOTIONS

Administrative:

During the work session on June 9, 2021, it was moved by Christine Bullinger and seconded by TJ Mechem that the March Meeting Minutes be approved as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Policy:

Welcome/Opening: Chairman Swilling called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. She opened the meeting for public comment. There was no public comment.

Secretary Announcements

Secretary Jennifer Duncan took roll call and it was determined that a majority was not present, so any items requiring action would be addressed during the work session the next day if a majority is present, June 9. Duncan asked the panel to review the current Roles and contact information spreadsheet and update anything as necessary.

Chair Report – Old and New Business, Erin Swilling

Erin Swilling reviewed minutes about some of the items that need follow up. The Parent Survey was sent out this past spring, and she would like an update during this meeting if possible. Swilling addressed the issue that she is the off going chair and a new chair and chair elect need to be nominated and voted into office. It was recommended that due to the unique set of circumstances over the last year that Swilling remain in office and a new chair elect be nominated and voted in. Since there is not a majority present, nominations can be taken, but action will need to be taken at the meeting tomorrow or via a zoom call later in the month.

The By Laws with the proposed changes were presented to the Panel, any action needing to be taken will be done at the meeting tomorrow if a majority is present.

Recognition of off going Members

Davey Hough and Julie Heil are leaving be Panel due to their term limits coming up. Their expertise and input will be missed. Ammon Bullinger will be leaving the Panel in August as he is set to go on his mission duties.

Statewide Data Presentation

Susan Shipley, Part B Data Manager at WDE, reviewed the data that is required to be presented to OSEP. There are 17 indicators that need to be reported on annually to our annual partners in the Annual Performance Plan. 1st indicator is Graduation target is 64%, the reported percentage is 65%. Targets will be reset in the fall and the Panel will be involved in determining that percentage. Christine Bullinger asked if certain disability categories have a very low or 0% graduation rate, Shipley noted that WDE tracks this data in great detail. Indicator 2, Percentage of students on IEP's that drop out of school, target is less than 6.1%, reported data was 6%; Indicator 3, assessment participation – the target is 95%, reported percentage is close to 100% all the time – proficiency percentages are lower and they are very hard to meet. Shipley asked the panel for input on how to increase those proficiency scores. Indicator 4 is suspension and expulsion for more than 10 days, this is measured within some districts by comparing special education student expulsion and suspension rates to special education student rates and by comparing the previous year's percentage to the current one, and a 5% increase is cause for concern. Indicator 5 Least restrictive environment, all targets have been met in terms of students in regular classrooms, in a separate classroom or in a separate facility. Indicator 6, Parental involvement, the target is 78%, data reported 85%. Shipley skipped over indicators 9 and 10, which involved identifying an unusually high percentage of student's in particular ethnic groups, Wyoming doesn't have an issue with this. Indicator 11 is the 60 day requirement for a child to be evaluated after identification – Wyoming rates 100% on this indicator. Indicator 14 are the post-secondary outcomes for students with disabilities – are they continuing onto college, training or are they competitively employed. The percentages were very low for the past year, but the COVID-19 pandemic created situations where colleges weren't open and employers weren't hiring. Other indicators involved dispute resolution and if district data is accurate.

Residential Placement Guidance Document

Gail Eisenhauer with the WDE has prepared several guidance documents, the most recent being 2 guidance documents addressing questions and providing guidance for Residential Placement, which is either medically necessary or required by the Department of Corrections. The Panel was provided copies of these documents for review. The WDE provides funding to these facilities upon being billed for provision of special education services. Depending on the placement method and status, not all students will receive FAPE – free appropriate public education – these entities are still provided SPED Funds to provide services. Eisenhauer will be providing two virtual trainings, one for institutions and one for special education directors, the first in July and the second in August.

SPED Director/WDE Updates

Thom Jones, WDE, provided some data around the Data Based Individualization (DBI) framework, which is a systematic process of identifying a student's need and then intensifying or adapting and intervention that meets that student's need, then using data analysis to measure the progress of that student, that the Panel has been involved with since 2015-2016. This has expanded beyond 3rd grade students with reading disabilities to all students, grades K-8. There are currently 126 practitioners representing 13 districts implementing this platform. A community of practice was held and several more practitioners have jumped on board the program. WDE has aligned the DBR process along with Tier 3 under the MTSS (Multi-tiered systems of support) in order to provide sustainability for this program. The MTSS program has expanded to all districts and all students as of April. Wyoming is receiving national attention and has been asked to present along with the US Department of Education to other states due to the success Wyoming has seen utilizing DBI.

Margee Robertson updated the Panel on recent transition services Memorandums of Understanding in place between the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation and the WDE Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Vision Outreach Services. Additionally, WDE has provided some funds for Wyoming Hands and Voices and the Parent Information Center to assist with provision of mentoring and educational services for parents of students with disabilities. A third MOU has been put in place to reimburse services under the Older Individuals with Blindness grant, which serves older individuals with Vision Outreach Services.

She updated the Panel on the continuous Improvement/monitoring team's activities. Several districts are being monitored over the next several months, their level of professional development and technical assistance will be based on the results of their state report card results on compliance on IDEA indicators.

Robertson updated the Panel on the status of the OSEP Grants that districts are applying for. Extra money was provided via federal COVID funds in the amount of \$7 million dollars, so each district will receive an extra allocation. District applications for funds are currently being reviewed by WDE. Chief Shelley Hamel asked Robertson to poll the Panel on what the most important thing that they are concerned about with regard to the effect of the pandemic on education. Number one concern was the effect on learning and progress for students with disabilities due to school closures. These particular shut downs were difficult because delivering special education services does not lend itself to a virtual setting, as many services such as physical therapy require hands on learning.

WAVES, Governor's Taskforce/Transition Workshops/Guidance Documents

Deana Smith updated the Panel on upcoming Professional Development opportunities beginning with the 2021-2022 WAVES sessions, virtual sessions which will continue beginning in August through the rest of the school year. There will be a 2 day paraprofessional training in August; September 20 Dr. Temple Grandin will speak during the Partners of Students with Disabilities Day along with a proclamation from the Governor being read; sessions on executive functioning will begin at the end of September and run for 4 weeks; and an early childhood summit will be held in January. There were extra 619 funds left over due to no travel or in person professional development occurring. Child Development Centers applied for these dollars – 22 applications were received – 9 were selected. Smith also started a book study based on professional learning communities, it was very well received as these communities are almost unheard of in the early childhood education world.

2021-22 Meeting Locations and Dates

October 5-6, 2021 in Jackson (moved to October 12-13)

January 19, 2022 in Cheyenne

April 5-6, 2022 in Sheridan

July 13-14, 2022 in Saratoga

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports at this time.

Advice, Recommendations and Action Steps

- Improved Social Media Presence
- Review John Copenhaver's recommended changes to by-laws

Tentative Upcoming Dates/Locations – **May change due to COVID-19 Health Guidelines**

*All meetings will be from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.