



WAPSD

Wyoming Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities

September 26, 2022, Meeting, Herschler Building Basement Rooms 53-54, 122 W 25th St., Cheyenne, WY 82002

Attendance: Christine Bullinger, Erin Swilling, Shannon Cranmore, Deana Smith, Nikki Baldwin, Danielle Wondercheck, Tricia Whyntott, Ragen Latham, Kim Caylor, Halyey Speiser, Jennifer Neely, Rachel Crawford, Margee Robertson, Jennifer Duncan

Guests:

MOTIONS

Administrative:

It was moved by Deana Smith and seconded by Rachel Crawford that the minutes of the July 2022 meeting be approved as written. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Ragen Latham and seconded by Tricia Whyntott to approve the meeting schedule as agreed upon by the Panel. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Rachel Crawford and seconded by Ragen Latham to approve the proposed changes to the by-laws. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Rachel Crawford and seconded by Ragen Latham to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 PM. Motion carried unanimously

Policy:

Welcome/Opening: Chairman Erin Swilling called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. She opened the meeting for public comment. There was no public comment.

Secretary Announcements

Jennifer Duncan asked members to confirm their contact information on the Panel contact list. The schedule for the Data Drill Down being held Tuesday, September 27 was reviewed and the Panel was invited to participate. The Panel membership was also reviewed as some people have stepped off the panel – there needs to be an equal number of parent/student roles to match the mandatory and other agency represented roles. Chris Bullinger asked about the possibility of parent members receiving a stipend for attendance in addition to being reimbursed for their lodging, meals and M&IE – Duncan emailed Deb Montoya, Fiscal Analyst, about the possibility of a stipend being paid from federal funds for parent members, which may encourage other parents to want to participate in the panel.

Chair Report – Old and New Business

Margee Robertson updated the Panel on a letter that was received from the Office of Special Education Programs indicating that the Wyoming Department of Education is not properly funding special education because of how they distribute all education funds and that the state owes the federal government about \$11 million dollars. The agency requested a waiver due to the diminishing returns from mineral revenues, which are used to fund education, however, the waiver was rejected and the federal government may have the state pay those funds back.

Set 2022-2023 Meeting Calendar

Chris Bullinger asked the panel to submit their ideas for meeting locations and potential tours; the Panel previously agreed that they would like at least 2 meetings to be outside Cheyenne and in person, incorporating in tours of local education and business entities that employ and serve students with disabilities. The following locations were agreed upon:

December 6, 2022 – Zoom

March 7-8, 2023 Lander Wyoming; Tour Life Resource Center, Reservation, Job Corps

June 6-7, 2023 Worland Wyoming; Tour Wyoming Boy's School, CDC Region 1

September 26-27, 2023 Jackson, Wyoming; Tour Vertical Gardening, C Bar V, Red Top Meadows, CDC

Elections

Nominations for chair elect were submitted to the panel then a ballot will be sent via email for panel member voting. Ragen Latham agreed to be nominated as chair elect for 2022-2023; Erin Swilling suggested that Jennifer Figenser would also be a good candidate and would contact her to see if she would be willing to be nominated since she was unable to attend the meeting.

Panel Priorities; WDE Priorities

The Panel has done an annual report in years past, but nothing has been done recently. This is something the Panel would like to reinstate being done and presented at the December meeting.

Committee Work

The Panel adjourned into various committees to determine the focus of the Panel work the next year.

By Laws

The By Laws committee presented their recommended changes to the By laws. The Panel agreed to all changes and a copy of the written changes will be sent out to all Panel members after the meeting. Only 1 proposed change to the by-laws needs to be run through the Attorney General's office, the rest of the changes were approved.

SPED Director Update, Margee Robertson

Deaf and Hard of Hearing team will be holding a training for teachers of the deaf at the end of October on literacy. There will be a transition event in January also. This team is putting a large focus on child development centers and early childhood providers to provide information regarding services for students that are hard of hearing or deaf. The Vision Outreach Team provides services for individuals from birth to death who are low vision or blind. They have approximately 3500 clients throughout the state that they provide services for. The continuous improvement team has several projects ongoing that provide technical assistance and professional development for districts. The upcoming WAVES virtual sessions, guidance documents and trainings for the coming year will be derived from information

from the data drill downs and from technical assistance requests. The monitoring team will be monitoring on specific areas in all districts rather than selecting a few districts to monitor for this year. By focusing on areas of concern that have arisen via technical assistance calls and data drill down activities, these will be looked at for all districts.

One major legislative issue is around discipline, which is not specifically a special education issue, but an overall general education issue. OSEP encourages educators and administrators to provide intervention and services to the best degree possible before discipline is needed. This information is passed out to the districts via trainings and guidance documents.

The legislature recently passed legislation allowing up to 3 charter schools per year to open with the approval of the State Lands and Investments Board, and not the local school boards and the approval of the State Board of Education. Concerns with this legislation mainly focus on the removal of local control over charter school approval and maintaining the proportionate share of funding for districts and special education services.

Determinations and Monitoring Margee Robertson

Margee Robertson presented a brief overview of how the General Supervision team review how districts are meeting the various determinations as outlined by IDEA and how the monitoring team provides guidance and compliance in light of how the districts are meeting the determination requirements based on data that is received from the districts. The data is then reported out during the State Systemic Improvement Plan and State Performance Plan to IDEA, Wyoming as a whole has always been in the Meets Requirements category, districts are then each issued a report card that outlines their level of compliance: Meets Requirements, Needs Assistance, Needs Intervention and Needs Substantial Intervention. Robertson reviewed the majority of the indicators and what types of data is gathered on each one from all districts. After data is gathered, data dives are done based on the information received from the surveys into the indicators then a data share out is offered statewide for all districts to attend.

Q&A on Parental vs Medically vs IEP Team Placement in Schools Guidance, Margee Robertson

These various guidance documents are available on the WDE website and line out the differences between a parental placement versus /court placement/medical placement and the responsibility of the district or facility to abide by IDEA to provide FAPE.

WAVE and Wyoming IDEA Part B Summit/PD Updates, Deana Smith

Deana Smith reported on professional development events. The in-person WAVE conference in July was a success, great speakers and a fairly good turn out considering it was the first one in person in two years. The next WAVE conference will be August 1-3 in Laramie and is focused on special education directors and administrators, but all are welcome and WAPSD panel meeting members are encouraged to attend. The WAVES sessions which are virtual monthly presentations will continue, the focus audience for these is teachers and building administrators. The Wyoming IDEA Part B Preschool Summit is upcoming in October and will review IDEA compliance with Child Development Centers. Wyoming doesn't provide universal pre school via school districts, so ensuring that CDC's are in compliance with IDEA is a difficult task and this summit is a mandatory event for CDC's to attend to learn about the IDEA law and how to comply with it.

PIC Update

Erin Swilling read a written report provided by PIC Executive Director, Jennifer Figenser. Several events are upcoming and direct communication with parents has increased over the last year. New staff members have been added to provide increased engagement with parents.

BHD Update

Ragen Latham reported that BHD is working on events in association with a professional development grant, which provides funding for professional development to be provided to early childhood and child development centers.

Next Meeting Planning – agenda items, lodging and attendance

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

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Potential Agenda items for December meeting:

Invite Jenn Davis with the Governor's Office

Invite Elliot Regenstein to discuss the Professional Development Grant workgroup

Advice Recommendations and Action Steps

Attendance list of the last 2 years meetings to Chris Bullinger – Jennifer Duncan

Certificates for offgoing members – Jennifer Duncan

Send Nikki Baldwin and Ragen Latham committee emails – Jennifer Duncan

Send request for provision of accommodations portion of by laws to AG for review – Margee Robertson

Inquire about a stipend for parent members of the WAPSD Panel in addition to reimbursement of travel expenses – Jennifer Duncan

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*All meetings will be from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.