



Special Education Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Place: Nine East

Address: 9 West St., Montpelier VT 05602

Date: March 21, 2018

Present:

Joy Wilcox, Sherrie Brunelle (phone), Mary Barton, Nancy Richards (phone), Cindy Moran, Karen Hartman (formerly Joyce), Karin Edwards, Kascinda Fleming, Tara Howe, Troy McAllister, Mill Moore, Kathi Gillaspy, Sarah Geldart

Agenda:

- 9:30 - 9:40 Welcome and Introductions.
Roll Call, Assign Roles, Review/ Revise Agenda as needed – Mary
- 9:40 - 9:55 Naming Expectations
- 9:55 - 11:05 Back to Basics
Federal and State Requirements for SEAC
Roles and Functions of SEAC
Defining Advising vs Advocacy
Definitions of SEAC Actions and Practical Applications to the Topics for SEAC
- 11:05 - 12:00 Setting Priorities as a Council
Identify the Process for Identifying what gets done as a Committee vs a full Council
Creating Committees and Identifying what gets done as a Committee vs a full Council
Creating a plan
Strategies to Support Committee work, including how to keep the full Council in the loop
- 12:00 - 12:45 Effective Meeting Planning for Effective Meetings
Planning for an effective Council meeting
Running an effective Council meeting
Follow up for effective Council functioning
- 12:45 - 1:20 Time for Technical Assistance
- 1:20 - 1:30 Meeting Wrap Up

Roll Call, Assign Roles, Review/Revise Agenda:

Kathi Gillaspy from AnLar facilitator, Kascinda Fleming minutes.

The Council agenda has been changed to include roll call, assigning of roles and review of February minutes. Mill M. made a motion to revise the agenda. Discussion-question as to how agenda was changed from last meeting and use of AnLar facilitating the meeting. Tara seconded the motion. All in favor.

February minutes distributed by Mary Barton and reviewed by members. Discussion-Sherry noted questions about adverse effect and how tools are being used in the field, Nancy shared concerns about page 3 of the IEP, and if the checkbox was being removed. Nancy made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction; Sherrie seconded the motion, no further discussion. All in favor.

State Updates: Legislative:

Karin Edwards provided an update on Act 264. There is ongoing interagency work. The group is looking at SU's with high identification of ED students.

Mill M. provided update on S229. Independent schools to provide special education has passed the Senate and is in the House committee. Testimony is next week. The question is to what extent will very small schools need support and can they have a modified approval process. Staffing is a concern, especially with shortage with special educators.

Membership:

Sherrie expressed concern over the process and time for getting people appointed by the Governor.

Tara has not been officially appointed.

Discussed Council having a membership committee.

Put membership on agenda for next month.

Efforts to improve the membership process is needed and will take time.

VT statute requires a set number of members which creates an interesting dynamic.

The Council is not responsible for recruiting members.

Council needs to figure out how to work through dual roles, state statute being out of compliance with IDEA.

AnLar recommends looking at removing the number of Council members and examples from other states were presented.

Recruiting-Council can provided information on how to apply and AOE can reach out to groups.

Members expressed concerns that the Council was not being used the way they should be by AOE and frustration with what some consider to be a strained relationship with AOE.

Other Concerns:

Need to change purpose statement on agenda and website as it is not aligned with legislative statement.

Reviewed the role of the Council per Federal regulation 300.169.

Council is mandated to meet 1 time per year.

Priority setting for the year around SSIP, APR, and disproportionality and other items from the field.

Council members would like information shared before decisions are made, so that the comments can be made.

Frustration with frequent changes of the AOE liaison, damaged relationships have not been mended, making it hard to move forward, and feeling a lack of respect and collaboration.

Need clarification from Cindy M. and Karin E. on role of the Council.

Sherrie expressed concern that she had not had time to look at feedback provided by AOE legal review of by laws.

AOE would like to have a well-functioning Council moving forward, as the rules are going to be opened dependent on what legislation is passed. Commenting and looking at other peoples comments will be a task of the Council.

A motion was made by Troy to adjourn the meeting, Joy seconded. No Discussion. The vote was approved unanimously.

Adjourned 12:45pm.

Meeting Schedule (hold the dates):

April 18, 2018, May 16, 2018, & June 20, 2018