



Special Education Advisory Panel: Executive Board Meeting

DRAFT MINUTES

Meeting Place: Microsoft Teams platform (Virtual Meeting)

Date: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 – 4:30pm to 6:30pm

Present: Jamie Crenshaw, Katie Ballard, Sarah Fabrizio, Rachel Seelig, Jamie Crenshaw, Crista Yagjian, Molly McFaun, Jacqui Kelleher

Agenda:

- 4:30 Come to Order
- 4:30-4:35 Approve Minutes from prior meeting
- 4:35-5:20 Membership and By-Laws
- 5:20-5:40 OSEP Summer Conference
- 5:40-6:00 February and March Agenda setting
- 6:00-6:02 Sub Committees
- 6:02-6:20 Other Business
- 6:20-6:30 Public Comment
- 6:30 Adjourn

Come to Order:

Approve Minutes from prior meeting:

December minutes were reviewed, and Jamie motioned to approve Crista seconded. The minutes were approved.

Membership and By-Laws:

Katie provided an update on potential memberships. There are twelve potential new members to the panel. Nine of whom are professionals and one who is a parent. Crista requested the categories that we are continuing to be in need of, Rachel provided from her current list the categories that need to be filled are the following: two special education teachers, one higher education, a person who completes McKinney-Vento work, Independent school representative, corrections representative, individuals with disabilities, and one or two parents of children with disabilities. Katie offered to share her current list from the membership and by-law subcommittee to the executive board which also shows the categories that are currently missing along with the draft letter to potential members. Katie raised concerns regarding members who are on the panel, however, aren't an active voice on the panel and suggested a change in the by-laws to address this issue. Rachel offered to check in with Emily Simmons who is AOE's general counsel regarding the question if the chair of the board can require participation from members when the panel is a government appointed. Crista volunteered to help Katie with membership recruitment. In addition, the panel needs to continue the work on developing a way to share documents that aren't in sole possession of one person.

OSEP Summer Conference:

Jacqui explained what the OSEP conference entails and would like for the panel to present at the conference. Jacqui is very excited about the work that has been completed and would like to share it with other panels

across the country. Crista, Jamie, and Katie all expressed interest in being part of the present. Jacqui, Crista, Jamie, and Katie will coordinate moving forward and will report back how the presentation went.

February and March Agenda setting:

Rachel will send out a request to the entire panel for a story share, as we currently do not have a volunteer for the meeting. The continuation of the seclusion conversation will occur. A letter was sent, received, and reviewed by people within the AOE. Jacqui asked what the goal of the conversation will be and based on the proposed goal of the conversation she will invite the appropriate people.

The panel discussed what the goal of the conversation should be and developed three goals. The first goal of the conversation is to learn what action steps have been taken after receiving the letter from the panel. The second goal is to offer an opportunity for any additional questions or clarifications from the panel. The third goal is to raise the question, why is restraint / seclusion happening at a higher rate for students with special needs compared to the general education population? Katie raised a concern that even with a letter written to the AOE and personal testimonies given at the prior panel meeting there is not a clear approach regarding restraint, and that parents are often left feeling like their concerns and complaints are not being heard. Katie requested to invite special education directors from the Essex / Westford school district to be a part of this conversation. It was decided that this month we will start the "why" part of this conversation and potentially as part of a solution invite additional stakeholders at a future meeting. After the restraint conversation we will move to discussing closing the achievement gap. After reviewing the data presented at prior meetings Jacqui suggested asking stakeholders on the panel what they feel there is a gap. It was requested that panel members are given advance notice of this agenda item to be prepared to discuss this agenda item. The advanced notice will be given to panel members. It was also discussed that the panel has already put forth an unmet needs document which includes concerns that unmet needs subcommittee members have already raised regarding the achievement gap. There will also be an agenda item around transition age youth, transfer of rights, and alternatives to guardianship. A request was made by a community of practice led by the DD Council to bring this issue to the panel's attention. It was agreed that this would be given 25 minutes. Rachel will let DD Council know they are on the agenda.

Sub Committees:

Due to the length of discussion on the March agenda this item was not discussed.

Other Business:

Jacqui made a request for twenty minutes of the meeting to be a discussion regarding a statewide IEP and would like feedback from the panel regarding this idea. Rachel agreed to put the statewide IEP topic on the agenda and will move public comment to the beginning of the agenda. Jamie requests that information regarding a proposed statewide IEP is sent ahead of time to help guide the discussion.

Public Comment:

None.

Adjourn:

Sarah motioned to adjourn the meeting and Jamie seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:12pm.

Meeting Schedule (hold the dates):

April 4, 2022 (4:30pm-6:30p.m.)

June 1, 2022 (4:30pm-6:30p.m.)