
Special Education Advisory Panel

Approved Meeting Minutes

Meeting Place: Virtual Teams meeting

Date: October 1, 2024

Present: Katie Ballard, Dana Lesperance, Jo Austin, Ashely Converse, Michelle Kessler, Regina-Anne Cooper, Ana Russo, Christa Yagjian, Teagen Comeau, Deborah Ormsbee, Pat Pallas Gray, Tracy Rubman, Tracy Harris, Laura Nugent, Lindsey Wells, Heather Slayton, Erika Smith, Suzie West, Kristin Bigelow, Sandra Chittenden

Agenda:

- 4:30 – 4:35 Call to order, approve minutes, agenda adjustments
- 4:35 – 4:40 Public comment
- 4:40 – 5:00 Independent Schools presentation Part 1: **Purpose:** What is the AOE Oversight and approval of Independent Schools? How does it work what does that process look like?
- 5:00 – 5:30 State determination annual update: **Purpose:** To review and understand current determination and improvement plan
- 5:30 – 6:00 Indicator target and baseline settings: **Purpose:** AOE providing update an explanation of advisement needed from the panel to the AOE for indicators 3,4, and 17
- 6:00 – 6:20 Updates and housekeeping for new year: **Purpose:** review strategic plan, various other updates from Chair and AOE
- 6:20 – 6:40 Membership update, introduction and potential new member vote: **Purpose:** review current membership and open roles, potential new member vote and introductions
- 6:40 – 7:10 TBD
- 7:10 – 7:25 TBD
- 7:25 – 7:30 Public comment
- 7:30 Wrap up and adjourn

Call to order, approve minutes, agenda adjustments:

4:35 Call to Order – No quorum yet. Anticipate moving vote to 5 p.m.

Public comment:

Vermont Legal Aid requested those who are aware of no services notices to please reach out. They are working to understand the districts impacted.

Independent Schools presentation Part 1: Purpose: What is the AOE Oversight and approval of Independent Schools? How does it work what does that process look like?:

Discussion/Presentation of Independent School Rules, Changes, and the AOE role in providing support via oversight and application. Limitation, State Agency cannot overstep authority of a non-public entity.

Quorum Reached - Amendment to agenda – DL moved to adjust agenda to permit voting of new members, CN second, Unanimous pass.

Potential new member vote:

Regina Ann Cooper (Parent - UV Region) - Erika Smith (Parent, Central Vermont)

LW Moved to Vote, DL Second – Unanimous

State determination annual update: Purpose: To review and understand current determination and improvement plan:

Agency staff review state determination. VT was determined to “needs assistance”. Panel particular interest in parent survey responses and parent involvement.

Indicator target and baseline settings: Purpose: AOE providing update an explanation of advisement needed from the panel to the AOE for indicators 3, 4, and 17:

Discussion of indicators where the AOE is resetting baselines and needs advisement, due to new assessments.

Updates and housekeeping for new year: Purpose: review strategic plan, various other updates from Chair and AOE:

Update from AOE - State SPED Director has transitioned, vacancy will be posted. Seeking Hire for State Systemic Improvement Plan. Hiring for ALT assessment coordinator. RFP for indicator 8 (parents) and 14 (student one year after exit) vendors.

5 min break

Panel is encouraged to review recent AOE presentation to the State Board of Education on the “State of the State”. Panel leadership will continue to work closely with AOE SPED Department. Awaiting AOE to confirm presentation on these items.

Preview Continuum of LRE Placement discussion – Independent Schools, AOE Review, VCSEA input, parent voice. Panel Discussion of weather advisement is appropriate.

SEAP Full Panel in Person meeting is rescheduled for December 3, 2024. (Awaiting confirmation of AOE staffing). May 6, 2025, will be spring full day in person meeting.

Interim State SPED Director, Chris Kane, unsure of direct participation with panel. Anticipate visit from State Secretary over next two months.

Commission on the Future of Public Education: Chair will attend either next meeting or December. No specific SPED stakeholder on group.

Executive Committee is working on finalizing annual strategic plan (what is happening at each meeting and the purpose of that identified item). In November, typically invite AOE legal to present on open meeting law. This plan will be distributed to panel members when finalized.

Panel goal of better knowledge of legislative processes entering new legislative sessions. Discussion of panel role and clarifying panel responsibility in giving advisement.

Membership update, introduction and Purpose: review current membership and open roles, potential new member vote and introductions:

Exciting membership movement, 1 panel member awaiting approval from executive, 2 newly voted on will submit applications. SEAP may be reaching out to less active members to check in.

Awaiting to vote on new corrections member, AC.

Discussion of attendance.

Public comment:

7:16 - Suzie West - processes are not accessible for families. Need to bring back to family and student centered.

Wrap up and adjourn:

Need orientation package.

7:23 - End.