
Special Education Advisory Panel

Draft Meeting Minutes

Meeting Place: Vermont Agency of Education, Conference Room 513, 1 National Life Drive, Davis 5, Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

Date: December 3, 2024

Present: Dana Lesperance, Cammie Naylor, Katie Ballard, Tracie Rubman, Sandra Chittenden, Regina-Ann Cooper, Alison Amadon, Rene Sanchez, Crista Yagjian, Ashley Converse, Jacqui Kelleher, Teagen Comeau, Erica Smith, Lindsey Wells, Deborah Ormsbee

Public Members - Krissa Metivier, Summer Stelter, Susan Aranoff, Karen Price
AOE – Ana Russo, Brandon Dall, Amanda Hass, Cassie Santo, Interim State Director
Guests – Erin Maguire, Meghan Roy

Agenda:

- 10:00 – 10:05 Call to Order, Agenda Changes, and welcome from the Chair, Approval of any outstanding draft minutes
- 10:05 – 10:10 Public comment
- 10:10 – 10:40 Overview of Local Special Education Determination and the Monitoring cycles with Tristan from AOE **Purpose:** To better understand special education determinations and monitoring cycles
- 10:40– 11:00 Alternative Assessment Coordinator Introduction and initial conversation about the upcoming assessment window including accommodations and alternate assessment eligibility. **Purpose:** Panel will be able to ask questions for them to provide future updates and better understand current practices
- 11:00 – 11:30 Part 3 of Independent School Conversation-The Educator lens with Erin Maguire from EWSD **Purpose:** To better understand the role of the school district and school team as it relates to publicly funded students
- 11:30 – 11:50 Briefly review Picus Report special Education **Purpose:** understand recent recommendations/report around funding and special education
- 11:50– 12:35 Working Lunch **Purpose:** To gather final feedback ideas and have discussions related to indicator feedback being sent to AOE at the meeting
- 12:35 – 1:30 Commission on the Future of Public Education Conversation with Chair Meagan Roy **Purpose:** To understand the scope and purpose of the commissions work as well as their timeline to better understand how we can be involved
- 1:30 – 2:00 Interim Secretary Saunders **Purpose:** Panel will meet Secretary Saunders to hear updates and priorities

Contact Information: If you have questions about this document or would like additional information, please contact: Katie Ballard, Chair, at Katie.ballard@vermont.gov

- 2:00 – 2:20 Interim State Director of Special Education Cassie **Purpose:** To come meet and engage with the panel around AOE updates and share priorities
- 2:20 – 2:45 SSIP Coordinator Caitlin will discuss the SSIP with Panel **Purpose:** to discuss and engage with AOE around questions and feedback related to SSIP
- 2:45 – 3:00 Briefly discuss and engage with Caitlin around parent engagement feedback/questions **Purpose:** To determine next steps on Indicator 8 feedback
- 3:00 – 3:15 Review as a large group all draft indicator feedback forms and consider any final questions **Purpose:** Final discussion on indicators 3 and 17
- 3:15 – 3:30 Final Decisions on each indicator area as it relates to panel feedback and recommendations. **Purpose:** Will make final determinations by consensus or vote
- 3:30 – 3:45 Next steps on remaining open items **Purpose:** Determine if any next steps are necessary as a group for each topic
- 3:45 – 3:50 Membership updates **Purpose:** updates and potential vote on new member
- 3:50 – 3:55 Public Comment
- 4:00 Adjourn

Call to Order, Agenda Changes, and welcome from the Chair, Approval of any outstanding draft minutes:

Call to Order 10:05 (no quorum yet)

Update: State Board of Education discussion of roles and responsibilities of state board and independent schools (recommendation to review recording) taking 'it' slowly w impact of changes that might come following the election

Quorum reached at 10:16

10:36 am Return to Voting

Minutes – October 1, 2024, Nov 5, 2024 – TC Move to Approve, JK Second – Unanimous Pass.

Membership – Summer Stelter (application rcv'd – parent rep role) KB Move, TC Second – Unanimous Pass. Application will move forward.

Agenda Adjustments – Shorten Lunch, move visit from Interim State Director of Ed (12:05-12:35), visit from Secretary of Ed (1-1:30). RC Move, AC second.

Public comment:

No public comment

Overview of Local Special Education Determination and the Monitoring cycles with Tristan from AOE Purpose: To better understand special education determinations and monitoring cycles:

AOE staff review cycles and process for supporting districts that are not in compliance. Procedural Compliance reviews (not substantive).

Alternative Assessment Coordinator Introduction and initial conversation about the upcoming assessment window including accommodations and alternate assessment eligibility. Purpose: Panel will be able to ask questions for them to provide future updates and better understand current practices:

Requesting Public Comment in Indicator 4 (due immediately)

Most significant intellectual disability, designed around the common core connected standards. Expect about 1% of students (not on SU of SD) statewide level. Discussion of Alt Assessment.

Part 3 of Independent School Conversation-The Educator lens with Erin Maguire from EWSD Purpose: To better understand the role of the school district and school team as it relates to publicly funded students:

Size, scope, and scale of districts contributes to the variability.

Briefly review Picus Report special Education Purpose: understand recent recommendations/report around funding and special education:

11:45am Discuss major recommendations from Picus report in Special Education Session (recommended review report)

Working Lunch Purpose: To gather final feedback ideas and have discussions related to indicator feedback being sent to AOE at the meeting:

2:12pm Indicator feedback. Finalize and submit SEAP Feedback

Commission on the Future of Public Education Conversation with Chair Meagan Roy Purpose: To understand the scope and purpose of the commissions work as well as their timeline to better understand how we can be involved:

Discussion of the Charge of Commission and work group process.

**Interim Secretary Saunders Purpose: Panel will meet
Secretary Saunders to hear updates and priorities:**

Susan Aranoff, DD Counsel Question about no service letters

Karen Price, VFN – Draw backs to formal complaint processes

**Interim State Director of Special Education Cassie Purpose:
To come meet and engage with the panel around AOE updates
and share priorities:**

Discussion of current state of special education, reporting, and progress. Anticipate new director hiring early in the new year.

**SSIP Coordinator Caitlin will discuss the SSIP with Panel
Purpose: to discuss and engage with AOE around questions
and feedback related to SSIP:**

Discussion of what is SSIP Question re: incentives and improvement/encouraging districts to engage in SSIP.

**Briefly discuss and engage with Caitlin around parent
engagement feedback/questions Purpose: To determine next
steps on Indicator 8 feedback:**

**Review as a large group all draft indicator feedback forms
and consider any final questions Purpose: Final discussion on
indicators 3 and 17:**

Panel finalized and submitted comment to AOE.

**Final Decisions on each indicator area as it relates to panel
feedback and recommendations. Purpose: Will make final
determinations by consensus or vote:**

Panel finalized and submitted Indicator 4 comment to the AOE.

**Next steps on remaining open items Purpose: Determine if
any next steps are necessary as a group for each topic:**

Skipped.

Adjourn:

4:00

Meeting Schedule (hold the dates):

January 7, 28, 2025, 4:30pm-7:30pm

February 4, 2025, 4:30pm-7:30pm

March 5, 2025, 4:30pm-7:30pm

April 1, 2025, 4:30pm-7:30pm

May 6, 2025 (In-Person), 10:00am-4:00pm

June 3, 2025, 4:30pm-7:30pm