

State Advisory Committee (SAC) For the Education of Children with Disabilities

Advising the NH Department of Education per RSA 186-C:3-b

NHDOE, Room 15

4:30pm – 7:00pm

May 1, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Attended: SAC Members:

Lisa Beaudion (chair), Bonnie Dunham (co-chair), Kim Carter (co-chair), Violetta Lortie, Gregory Magoon, Kevin Cushing, Maureen Shields, Elizabeth (BeBe) Casey, Moria Ryan, Kerri Lynn Kimner, Alicia Ferguson, Jason Henry, Mike Pinard, Jacqueline Kelleher, Esther Kennedy, Nicole Varasteh, Karen Rosenberg

Guest(s): Santina Thibedeau, Administrator, Bureau of Student Support, Christopher O'Reilly, Thomas Ryan

Attended: Nominated SAC

Susan Rasicot, Kari Grimes, Meaghan Cullinane, Sandi Raeuchle

Absent: Senator Jay Kahn, Representative Tamara Le, Senator Jean Dietsch, Le'Ann Millender, Lisa Hinson-Hatz, Melissa McKeon, Jill Hartmann, Rebecca Mitchell, Janet Reed

Welcome, Introductions of SAC Members & Guests

- Lisa Beaudion began the meeting at 4:35 pm
- SAC members introduced themselves and stated their role on SAC

Approval of Minutes

- Approval of the April 3, 2019 meeting minutes. Bebe made a motion to approve the April minutes, Bonnie seconded.
- Minutes approved. 9 in favor, 0 opposed and 8 abstentions.

Public Comment

- Co-Chair Kim Carter will be submitting her resignation letter to SAC, effective the end of the May 1, 2019 meeting.

Legislative Update

Bonnie Dunham

Review the handout – 5/1/2019 Legislative Update for SAC on Bills Impacting Special Education and/or Individuals with Disabilities.

Updates from the Bureau of Student Support

Santina Thibedeau

Within your packet is a handout with the dates for next year's SAC meetings

- Do we want to continue with this monthly meeting schedule?
- September Retreat – pick a date and then pick a location.
- Is anyone opposed to having a SAC Retreat in September? Held the 2nd Wednesday of the month to avoid the beginning of school. SAC would like Commissioner join the meeting to provide Department updates.
 - September 11, 2019 – 9:00am-2:30pm
 - Locations:
 - 1st choice – Brown Building
 - NH Special Education Administrators conference room
 - NHTrust
- In the past, June has been an optional meeting; do we need to have a June meeting? Do we want to keep as optional? Yes, Bonnie would like to keep as an optional date.
- Timeframe for the SAC meetings, continue with 4:30pm to 7:00pm? Yes, continue.

This is the Bureau's time period to process and submit reporting to OSEP:

- The SPP/APR has been submitted; offered a clarification period, once the clarification period is over, the SPP/SPR will be posted on the website.
- SSIP, State Systemic Improvement Plan, which is our iSocial resource for preschool and early childhood environments, has been submitted.
- The SPDG, State Personnel Development Grant, APR has also been submitted.

The Bureau's Administrator II position has been posted. The responsibilities for this position center on data. If anyone knows of someone who may be interested, please refer them the Department's website.

Question: what is the Bureau looking for in a candidate?

- Reference to data collection, the story behind the data, excel skills and supervisory.

The Bureau also has a Grants and Contracts Technician position currently open.

The Bureau is working with OSEP regarding the 10 million dollar excess to release the funding.

- Districts may not be able to spend down, requesting from OSEP to for an MOE exception.
- Have asked for four years for the districts to spend the funds. Will keep you posted.
- CEIS is a pot of money that is available for use with students without an IEP. Monies need to be used for services. Can spend up to 15% and then track the students over the next years to see if they have been identified.

Question: How will the Bureau calculate the 10 million dollars for distribution to the field?

- Shall be calculated using the same formula as monies for the IDEA grant,

The Bureau will issue a memo to the districts with the announcement of the disbursement of the funds; OSEP will be monitoring the Bureau.

Parent Support Conference was held April 26th – April 28th, Mary Lane, Education Consultant with the Bureau, Adrienne Shoemaker, Bureau's contracted APH Scholar, and parent Christine Duffley attended on behalf of the Bureau. Positive reviews were received with the rolling out the Family Engagement. Are parents feeling involved in their children's education, parent's do not feel involved in the school environment.

Lisa: can you talk about the grant with CAST.

- The Bureau has a pot of money called State set aside and can be use as needed; there was a need for Universal Design for Learning (UDL).
- UDL involves school teams, and UDL through CAST, is rolling out throughout the State.
- Greg Amend in the Bureau's contracted UDL Scholar, you can google him on UTube, works with a teacher, Benjamin Crawford.
- Greg received a Mental Health and Community Engagement Award today.

Questions:

- Where do school districts get access for teams?
 - Each time the Department offers a Cohort, districts self-select to participate.
 - Within the Department's ESSA plan and in part of the Teacher's credentials.
- Is there a list of the schools who have signed to participate with UDL teams?
 - Yes. Mary Lane to send the list of Cohort's to SAC
 - UDL is not just a district, could be just a school and needs to be a team.
- Can parents request that their school become involved with UDL?
 - Yes, parents can speak with their school principal and/or the Superintendent.

Question: Can the Bureau publish an article about UDL in the Union Leader, as many folks do not know about UDL; there is a need to increase the public's knowledge.

- The Department has a new communications person, Grant Bosse, Santina will reach out to him.

If SAC is interested in learning more about UDL. SAC could invite Mary Lane to present.

Bebe Casey: Has SAC members seen the report of percentage of kids on special education services, Texas put a cap that could only have a percentage of student being identified. Bebe will send a link to the report to Barbara and she will distribute to SAC members.

Review Maureen Tracey's letter re: sexual harassment

Bonnie read a letter sent to SAC by Maureen Tracey regarding her concerns around sexual harassment policies in the State.

The School Board Association has new policies on Sexual Harassment. SAC will review these policies SAC Retreat and make recommendations.

Lisa made a motion to discuss the Sexual Harassment policies at the Retreat, all in favor.

Bebe has boilerplate policies and she will bring to the Retreat.

Moving Forward with SAC's Top 3 Priorities

Priority #1

Need to increase student achievement and reduce the achievement gap, particularly in the areas of math & reading.

Reviewed and discussed Bonnie's proposed motions/ideas for consideration. Discussion around:

- Early screening for dyslexia, and related disorders. Potential indicators or risk factors of dyslexia disorders.
- Does the Department has any data on this?
- Endorse the Department of Education's general education initiative to focus on early screening for dyslexia, and related disorders. Potential indicators or risk factors of dyslexia disorders.
- The Department establish a permanent position of Reading Specialist, who is charged with implementation of the statute, educate on best practices,

- As time goes on, for the Department to track the data; collecting data difference is this making.
- Unfunded mandate for the districts and can choose their tools and the understanding of what dyslexia is.

Maureen made a motion that SAC authorize Bonnie, Karen and other members to finish Priority #1 and distribute to SAC, Jason seconded the motion.

Priority #2

General educators not prepared sufficiently to teach/support children with disabilities.

Reviewed and discussed Bonnie's proposed motions/ideas for consideration. Discussion around:

- Recommend the NHDOE meet with IHEs with teacher prep programs that all have sufficient curriculum to teach/support children with disabilities.
- Invite the Bureau of Credentialing to a SAC meeting to present on information on resources, programs, resources and initiatives.
- Pre and post certification of teachers.
- Recommend the NHDOE include a portal on their website to list opportunities, etc. that will provide support to educators to support all children.
- What are SACs goals? Regular education teachers are not prepared to teach students with disabilities.

Karen made a motion to move forward with SAC recommendations in Bullet 1 as is and the first sentence of #2, Bebe seconded the motion.

"As an approach that supports the needs of all students, SAC endorses the Department's emphasis on Universal Design for Learning (UDL)."

"Related to this priority area, SAC recommends that the NH Department of Education meet with representatives of NH Institutes of Higher Education who have teacher preparation programs to identify ways to ensure that every NH IHE that has a teacher preparation program included as part of their curriculum, sufficient required courses, including increase special education courses, to prepare teachers to teach children with and without disabilities in inclusive educational environments."

- Research the additional bullets; invite Bureau of Credentialing to attend a SAC meeting for additional information.
- Invite someone from CTE come meet with SAC, are the Rules preparing teachers to teach special education students. Include them within the classroom.

Karen withdrew her motion.

- Keep the first bullet. Let us make this a Retreat topic. A subcommittee over the summer to meet and discuss. Volunteers for the subcommittee: Kerri Lynn, Esther, Meghan, Karen, Sandra, Bonnie and Lisa.

Priority #3 - Tabled

School refusal / Truancy

Reviewed and discussed Bonnie's proposed motions/ideas for consideration. Discussion around:

- Karen, do not have enough information around school refusal.

Karen made a motion for the NHDOE provide SAC with the opportunity to the iPlatform IT staff to learn about the data NHDOOE is collecting potential used for such data, Jason seconded for discussion.

Question posed: is any opposition to tabling Priority #3. SAC membership agreed.

For discussion at the September Retreat, have predetermine language.
Additional priority issue: Special Education Funding/Finance

Nominations, Old Business, New Business, Announcements

Nominations:

Bonnie nominated Lisa Beaudion as SAC Chair for 2019-2020, Jackie seconded the motion.
Discussion: no additional nominations, Lisa is willing to be Chair again. Vote held, all in favor.

Kim Carter submitting her resignation as the Charter School representative, effective at the end of the meeting, she has enjoyed her time serving on the Committee.

Kim nominated Christopher O'Reilly as the Charter School representative. Chris has a Special Education background, and is the parent of a child who is identified, has served on the special education committee on charter schools, he is Interested in the work the committee does here and looks forward to being a part of the committee. Karen seconded the motion. Vote held, all in favor.

Moria nominated Thomas Ryan to the SAC; Thomas is a student at Founder's Academy. Jason seconded the motion. Vote held, all in favor.

The following membership requirements still need to be filled:

- Parents
- DHHS Representative | involved in the financing or delivery of special education or related services to children with disabilities
- DHHS Representative | responsible for foster care
- Individual who may have received special education services, student

Old Business

At the April 1st meeting Diana Fenton mentioned that she would send SAC members resources; the PowerPoint and her cheat sheet Complaints, Cases and Investigations. The PowerPoint is on the Department's website under State Advisory Committee:
https://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/special_ed/sac/index.htm

Barbara will e-mail the PowerPoint and Complaints, Cases and Investigations to SAC.

6:51pm Jason made the motion to adjourn, second by Maureen. All in favor.

Next meeting scheduled:

SAC Retreat

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

9:00am – 2:30pm

Location: TBA