

**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**

November 6, 2019

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Lisa Beaudoin (chair), Bonnie Dunham (vice-chair), Mike Pinard, Tina Greco, Kevin Cushing, Christopher O'Reilly, Jill Hartmann, Jason Henry, Violetta Lortie, Sandra Rauechle, Bebe Casey, Maureen Shields, Janet Reed, Karen Rosenberg, Meagan Cullinane, Esther Kennedy, Kerri-Lynn Kimner, Moria Ryan, Thomas Ryan, Kari Grimes, Dale Boyle, and Susan Rasicot

Guests:

Heather Gage, Division Director, Division of Learner Support, Anna Barrows, Kristin Barrows, Shelli Vardovo, Lexi Talent, Leah Lucier-Pike, and April Villani
Ben Crawford, Greg Amend, SAU #60, Vilas Middle School
Jennifer Levine, Susan Shapiro, CAST

Absent:

Representative Tamara Le, Senator Jean Dietsch, Senator J. Kahn, Le'Ann Millender, Alicia Ferguson, Melissa McKeon, and Gregory Magoon

Welcome, Introductions of SAC Members & Guests

- Lisa Beaudoin began the meeting at 4:34pm
- Participants introduced themselves and their role on SAC

Approval of Minutes

- Approval of October 2, 2019 meeting minutes. Jason motion, Janet seconded, Minutes approved. 14 in favor, 8 abstentions, 0 opposed.

Public Comment

April Villani, mother of five children, two with disabilities, addressed SAC "What is happening in Pembroke?"

Pembroke families are on high alert after police were called to restrain a first grader with autism earlier this month. The mother of the six year old does not feel that he son is safe at school; she is scared to send him back after his suspension. When behavior management practices have escalated to calling the police, we know that no student is safe and schools are feeding the "school to prison pipeline" instead of appropriately educating our children.

At a Pembroke School Board Meeting this school year, the elementary, middle, and high school principals as well as the superintendent spoke to how "behaviors" are on the rise this year. There was little discussion on behavior communication and what students are attempting to communicate or assessing skills that students may be lacking.

Parents have come to April with a myriad of wants:

- Collaboration between the School District and Special Education Community in Pembroke including a state mandate for a Special Education Parent Advisory Committee.
- Access to resources for school staff and parents including but not limited to locally trained advocates.
- The opportunity for parents and families to share their knowledge and expertise.
- Trauma inflicted by schools onto students to be recognized. Adverse Childhood Experiences does not address trauma or re-traumatization originating in the school environment.
- In crisis situations, a method to report unlawful practices to the DOE to escalate a timely response.
- Meaningful and Impactful Training for School Personnel and Families.
- Sample School Policies and Procedures to eliminate exclusionary practices of discipline including suspension, expulsion, restraint and seclusion.

Karen asked April if the parents whose children have been impacted by this contacted the Disability Rights Center (DRC). April indicated that some have and are receiving some support.

Legislative Update

Bonnie Dunham

Bonnie provided handouts on the bills affecting Special Education and/or individuals with disabilities. Language from LSRs are not available yet.

LSR #2063 – relative to the office of counseling and psychology in the [DOE] and making an appropriation therefor.

LSR #2318 – relative to competency assessments.

LSR #2319 – relative to the statewide assessment report.

LSR #2330 – relative to the authority of the department of education

LSR #2331 – repealing the powers of the state board of education

LSR #2441 – relative to special education services for children in charter schools.

LSR #2514 – requiring schools to have a special education advisory council.

LSR #2596 – relative to the provision of special education services for older students

LSR #2614 – relative to the Medicaid to Schools Program

LSR #3016 – establishing a committee to study teacher preparation and education programs, relative to chartered public school use of unused school district facilities, and establish education freedom savings accounts for students.

Update from the Bureau of Student Support

Heather Gage. Division Director, Division of Learner Support

Update on the Bureau Administrator search. The Administrator position had been posted, the Department conducted the interview process and the candidate withdrew her application prior to being offered the position.

The Administrator position was posted a second time and the Department received five (5) applications, certified, minimum qualifications. The Commissioner is currently reviewing and will determine the next steps.

Additional open positions with the Bureau: Administrator II, Education Consultants, Program Assistant II positions, which hope will be posted soon. The Bureau is down approximately seven (7) positions.

The monitoring procedures have been started; working on 2021 and what will be like, school districts will know a year in advance, the Bureau is always looking for advice on the process. Have started going into school districts and daily district trainings are occurring. Private Providers also go through the same monitoring process.

Any questions?

Bonnie – SAC participated in creating a rubric several years ago. SAC gave input for Focused Monitoring. Are changes being considered to these criteria and would SAC be able to provide input again?

Heather will ask Joanne DeBello to come to the January meeting to discuss, talk about the monitoring piece. Joanne can walk through the process and what changes have been made. Rubrics have not changed; the 16 criteria have stayed the same under each Indicator since SAC has provided input.

The Indicators are outlined on the back of the SAC agenda.

The Bureau is no longer doing focused monitoring has moved to compliance monitoring.

Caitlyn Davis will attend the January SAC Meeting to talk about the State Budget, funding affections special education.

Bebe – Where in the process is the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Reading Specialist?

Heather - Ashley is currently working on the RFP.

Karen - If the Department has not hired a new Administrator by December 11th what is the plan?

Heather - If a new Administrator has not been hired, the Commissioner or the Deputy Commissioner will attend the SAC meeting.

The Commissioner has taken over the process due to Heather's pending exit, looking to fill as quickly as possible.

Bonnie and the State Board have expressed concern about not have the Administrator position filled; could the Department contract with Heather until the position is filled.

Heather - nothing is off the table. The Commissioner going to bring in a pool of stakeholders to view the applicants has not decided what the process is.

Bonnie made a motion for SAC to receive an update on the plan for the hiring of the Bureau Administrator and for SAC members to be involved in the selection process as well as involved in the stakeholder group providing input and interviewing. Motion the same for the Division Director position. These two positions have a direct impact on SAC statutory responsibilities and SAC has worked closely with these two individuals. Jason seconded the motion. SAC to send a letter to the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner. 21 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention.

Universal Design for Learning

**Mary Lane, Bureau of Student Support
Greg Amend and Ben Crawford, SAU 60
Susan Shapiro and Jennifer Levin, CAST, Inc.**

Presentation ~ New Hampshire UDL Innovation Network

The National AIM Center gives support and looks universally what do your environments look like? Through leadership here at the Department, Mary was able to work through how the wheel would work in New Hampshire without recreating the wheel.

A Request for Proposal was developed and issued for the New Hampshire Universal Design for Learning Network.

Year 1, eight schools were involved in NHUDL, the next year eight additional schools joined as pilot schools; they are still working with NHUDL. At the end of three years, 24 schools are participating in NHUDL, we are working with 64 schools.

Susan Shapiro, Universal Design for Learning Coach, CAST, Inc.

Tonight's goal is to make sure your questions are answered. The PowerPoint Presentation will be sent to Mary for distribution to SAC members.

Year 2 (2019) Report has been issued, copies were provided to SAC members.

Questions:

Moria – is it easy to start UDL in smaller schools.

Susan – applications are sent to school districts to apply for the professional learning opportunity for free, districts need to have teams of 5 to 8 people. CAST works with all schools that are interested, doesn't matter if is a small or a large school, looks for commitment from schools, charter schools, etc.

Susan - What is SAC looking to learn from the UDL presentation?

Lisa - How many SAC members are aware of the UDL Network? Several members know of the UDL Network.

Lisa - cultural transformation, how is this going, setting a tone in leaders in cultural transformation?

Greg and Ben – any cultural change is hard and has barriers. Families and students talking about the approach as the cultural changes are breaking barriers with students and families.

Jason – as a member of the Barnstead School Board, finding teachers not coming for structural piece, are in need of funding for other barriers to accommodate the UDL opportunities. Are there grants available to assist the teachers?

Greg and Ben - when trying to change barriers, there can be cost incurred. Ask teachers to come up with ideas on their own prior to coming to the school board. Barriers can be equipment, workstations, etc. of which financial support is needs.

Jason, - will CAST be going to schools boards and talk about UDL and expand further and get school boards involved in the process? Parent representatives? What trainings are available for para-educators?

Jennifer – we start with small cohorts including five to ten members of the school, as the training expands in the schools the training encompasses all, including para-educators. School wide trainings include all staff including all para-educators.

Moira - what are the ways you are engaging families?

Greg - family nights, different avenues of communication with families, positive communication creates more trust. More emphasis on trust, newsletters, phone conversations. This year positive text messages (going to get permissions due to PII). Family day in school, looking at different options: how to participate and different ways to bring parents into the schools.

Currently hearing poverty is appearing in the picture, special education issues are higher for students from low income, more research need to be done. Poverty to prison pipeline.

Lisa - are you seeing improved outcomes?

Greg – seeing high-level engagement and map scores going up.

Thank you for the NHUDL presentation, fantastic job.

Lisa would like to have an ongoing conversation, however limit to 45 minutes

Work on SAC Priorities and status of priorities

Tabled

Nominations, Old Business, New Business, Announcements, Comments from the Chair

Nominations:

Anna Barrows is in the 10th grade at The Academy at Penguin Hall in Wenham, Massachusetts, and a resident of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Anna was invited to join the State Advisory Committee, vote held, all in favor. Welcome Anna.

Anna Barrows invited to join the state advisory committee, all in favor

New Business:

SAC will hold a December meeting and welcomes all SAC members to come to discuss our priorities. Majority of SAC members indicated they would come to a December 4th meeting.

Thank you guests for coming to our meeting today, we welcome you.

7:01pm, a motion was made by Janet to adjourn, seconded by Jason, all in favor.

Next meeting:

Wednesday, December 4, 2019, 4:30pm-6:00pm, NHDOE, Room 15