

State Advisory Committee (SAC) for Children with Disabilities

Advising the New Hampshire Department Education per RSA 186-C:3-b

January 19, 2022
4:30pm – 7:00pm

Meeting Notes

In Attendance:

Alicia Houston, Alyson Eberhardt, Bonnie Dunham, Christopher O'Reilly, Dale Boyle, Donna Curtin, Gregory Magoon, Janet Reed, Jennifer Blagriff, Jill Hartmann, Karen Rosenberg, Kari Grimes, Kerri-Lynn Kimner, Leah Lucier-Pike, Marissa Chan, Maureen Shields, Maureen Tracey, Melissa McKeon, Moira Ryan and Tracy Walbridge

Guests:

Rebecca Fredette, Administrator, Bureau of Special Education Support, Mary Ellen Hamilton-DOE, Lisa Moody-DOE, Representative Mark Paige, Erin Tower, and William Caruso

Welcome:

Bonnie began the meeting at 4:35pm by welcoming everyone to the meeting. SAC members introduced themselves and their role on the Committee as well as the attending guests.

Legislative Updates:

Representative Mark Page talked about a bill that he is a sponsoring; which is HB 1594:

[billText.aspx \(state.nh.us\)](http://billText.aspx (state.nh.us))

An act relative to assistance to certain students with disabilities in registering to vote.

This bill provides for students with an individualized education program or accommodations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to discuss including voter registration in the student's plan.

He said part of this bill will remove the barrier for these students in registering to vote and would make sure that this is part of that process. There is going to be a positive dividend that repeats in student's lifetime if they decide to vote once they are registered to be engaged and he believes that the IDEA Helps students become not just accessing a curriculum in K-12 but help them become an active citizen.

He asked for support saying the bill has not yet been scheduled but guessing somewhere in February. People can reach out to him, or if anyone feels comfortable testifying or reaching out to the education committee to please do so.

Bonnie responded by saying that SAC did not have a quorum and could not vote to support this but if anyone wanted to testify or tell others about it.

Karen asked does the bill prescribe any particular action if the IEP team does include voter registration.

Representative Paige said that it doesn't subscribe for schools to do anything other than if they decide to make this part of the IEP process that they make a plan to insure that the child is registered and have this embedded in what's already happening.

Bonnie stated that on the Legislative Updates paper on the right hand side PH means public hearing, LOB means Legislative Office Building, SH means State House and then it will say the date, time and room number. WS means that it is a work session and not a public hearing and if it says ES that means it is an executive session and the committee is voting on the bill. There are quite a few bills about Education Freedom Accounts, Finance and Adequacy – Adequate Education. In addition, there are a fair number about Curriculum, and a few about Charter Public School and Education.

Karen added there are two upcoming hearings that she thinks would interest the committee. One is one that Senator Kahn is sponsoring and spoke to us about SB 394, which has a public hearing on 1/25. In addition, HB 1513 is scheduled for a hearing on 1/21, and this would extend to a student's 22nd birthday (ages 3 to 21 inclusive).

Discuss Change to Quorum

Bonnie spoke about the need to have a quorum to be able to change the quorum number. There are two bills that are presenting on 1/25 one says that you would only need a quarter of the membership present to reach a quorum and the other removes the physical presence entirely for a quorum, saying that you can have an online quorum instead of having and in person quorum. These are SB 322 and SB 344. Bonnie asked Karen about RSA 91a regarding an emergency to be able to vote.

Karen asked if we could reach out to Chris Bond or the AG's Office so that they could let us know if it would be possible to use this as an emergency exception. She asked if there was a way to attend one meeting palatable or acceptable and do the change with a meeting. She felt we should reach out to Chris first and Bonnie said for an emergency to amend our bylaws. If we could get that vote to amend then we could put in the sunset clause to change the quorum until COVID passes. It would not be for everything it would just be that one vote to change the bylaws.

Becky said that in talking with Chris, the emergency provision because as this interpreted it would have to be an Emergency Order put out by the Governor. This is why it cannot be used. Karen said that she disagrees because this was in the law long before.

Melissa McKeon wanted to know if we could schedule a meeting outside to vote so that a quorum could be reached. Bonnie agreed that the committee would have to get creative because people intended to come to tonight's meeting and have come down with COVID. She felt that even if we planned something that this issue will be coming up for a while. Jennifer agreed that people will agree to come but then end up testing positive and believes that we should give it two months. Janet agreed that this would be going on for two months. Melissa responded that this should be considered an emergency.

Karen wants to reach out to Chris Bond and see what we can do to find a solution. Karen said that the fact that people are sick is not the emergency it is the action of the board requiring immediate action.

The public hearing on the Holocaust did not happen at the State Board Meeting for January and most likely will happen at the February meeting if anyone was planning to speak on this.

Overview of IDEA and RSA 186-C Requirements for SAC

Bonnie started with are we doing everything that the IDEA requires us to as a State Advisory Committee. Are there things that we are supposed to be doing according to NH statutes that are not in the Federal law? She did a comparison shown on the SAC IDEA v 186 document that was emailed to everyone. This is just an informative document because people were having questions.

State of the State

Proposed Targets for NH's State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) Indicators

Lisa Moody did a PowerPoint presentation on the Indicators and Targets.

- The Division of Education and Analytic Resources gathers this data for all students for Indicator 1, 2, 3
- NH Special Education Information System(NHSEIS - Indicator 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13
- Panorama Education - Indicator 8 & 14
- TS Gold and/or AEPS I- Indicator 7
- Districts - Indicator 15 & 16

Indicator 1 – Graduation

Indicator 2 – Drop Out

Indicator 3 – Assessment

Indicator 4 – Suspension/Expulsion

Indicator 5 Education Environments (Children 6-21)

Indicator 6 – Preschool Environments (Children 3-5)

Indicator 7 Preschool Outcomes

Indicator 8 – Parent Involvement

Indicator 9 & 10 – Disproportionate Representation & Disproportionate Representation in Specific Disability Categories

Indicator 11 – Child Find

Indicator 12 – Early Childhood Transition

Indicator 13 – Secondary Transition

Indicator 14 – Post School Outcomes

Indicator 15 – Resolution Sessions

Indicator 16 - Mediation

SAC Priority – Inclusive School Culture/Equity in Education

Because there is no quorum and it is not expected that there will be a quorum there are things that we simply cannot do. We cannot make recommendations to the Commissioner because we do not have a quorum to do that. Also, this is just Bonnie's opinion but she does not think it is realistic to plan a forum for families and educators because they are just completely wasted with everything that is going on and does not seem realistic. If people want to think about other ways we can collect information on Inclusive School Culture and the staff shortages to share with the Commissioner we can talk about this at the next meeting.

Subcommittee reports

Dispute Resolution – No one available

Reading Proficiency – Jennifer said they have not met and are trying to get additional members; the state reading consultant is leaving; have not had meetings trying to meet on Monday's at 1:00

Parent Engagement – Alicia says they have paused during the holidays and trying to work on times and locations.

New Business/Old Business

Bonnie- Trying to get new members to fill vacancies but this cannot happen until a quorum is available.

Announcements

Maureen Shields announced that the Parent Information Center is having a conference on Saturday – Supported Decision Making, you can go to the PIC website to register.

Maureen Tracey kicked off her Advocacy Program. William Caruso is here for his third meeting and when possible would like to nominate him. It was stated without a quorum he cannot be nominated at this time.

Bonnie stated that Shawn's direct support person is retiring and they are advertising for someone, and if anyone knows of anyone to let her know.

Melissa said she will come to the next meeting to stand outside, socially distanced, to take a vote regarding the quorum and is putting this out for other people.

Janet believes we need to have discussions prior to the vote so that we will be all set with a recommendation to vote. She feels that going very low is not a good but as long as it has a sunset period.

Bonnie stated that we could change to 20% of the membership. Currently there is 28 members so that would make it six people for a quorum. Bonnie wants to have a change to go through the end of next year.

Karen stated that we could not change to count the remote people for the quorum. We need 30 days under the bylaws to make this change so we are looking at the March meeting.

Jennifer asked that the March meeting be pushed out to March 9th and the majority agreed so that this will enable the information will be available to everyone at the February meeting.

Meeting Adjourned