

State Advisory Committee (SAC) for Children with Disabilities
Advising the New Hampshire Department Education per RSA 186-C:3-b

June 8, 2022
4:30pm – 7:00pm

The Hotel Concord
New Hampshire Room

In Attendance:

Representative Cordelli, Representative Mullen, Senator Kahn, Alyson Eberhardt, Becky Owen, Carin Daddino-Rogers, Christina Dotson, Chris O'Reilly, Dale Boyle, Greg Magoon, Janet Reed, Jennifer Blagriff, Joanne Grobecker, Joe Costanzo, Kathleen Talbot, Lance Paquette, Leah Lucier-Pike, Melissa McKeon, Moira Ryan, Rebecca Fredette, and Tracy Walbridge

Absent:

Alicia Houston, Christina Dotson, Esther Kennedy, Karen Rosenberg, Kari Grimes, Lewis Bellows, Marissa Chan, and Michelle Lewis

Guests:

Angela Berholdt, Holly Carman, Karen Stokes, Thomas Ryan, Thad Riley, Adam Veinotte, Will Caruso, and Katherine Shea

Welcome:

Rebecca Fredette, State Director of Special Education welcomed everyone to the meeting. The question was asked if the members wanted to approve the May 4, 2022 meeting minutes.

Janet Reed made the motion to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Dale Boyle.

Motion #1- 10 approved; 9 abstentions; 0 opposed. Motion is carried

Janet Reed made the motion to approve the minutes with corrections; seconded by Dale Boyle.

Motion #2 – 10 approved; 9 abstentions; 0 opposed. Motion is carried,

Meeting Discussion:

There was a discussion regarding nominating a SAC Chairperson, and only one Letter of Intent was received from Jennifer Blagriff expressing interest in the position. Moira Ryan and Tracy Walbridge felt that a vote should not be taken at this time for Chairperson.

Motion #3

Tracy Walbridge nominated Moira Ryan for chairperson; there was no second and the motion did not move forward.

Joanne Grobecker nominated Jennifer Blagriff as the chairperson for the remainder of this year and all next year. Alyson Eberhardt seconded the motion.

Motion #4 – 16 approved; 0 abstentions; 2 opposed. Motion is carried.

Dale Boyle made a motion to vote on electing Jennifer Blagriff as the chairperson and it was seconded by Janet Reed.

Motion #5 – 15 approved; 0 abstentions; 2 opposed. Motion is carried

It was agreed that Rebecca Fredette and Jennifer Blagriff will co-host the rest of the meeting.

The next item discussed was the TAESE flyer that was sent out to all the members and the trainings that they offer. TAESE is the Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education, and they do virtual or on-site training for the panel, which is all of you. They also doing training for the Executive Committee which is the chairperson and the vice chairperson. They can come in and do an orientation at the first meeting and explain what SAC is to all the new members and what the purpose is of the committee. They will also come in and help you set up your priorities. So typically, in August/September we pick the three things that will be our priorities and they will come in and facilitate that meeting if you choose. They will also come in and review your by-laws.

Melissa McKeon made a motion to use TAESE for: 1 – Orientation; 2 – Training the Executive Committee; 3 – Setting Priorities and 4 – Reviewing the By-laws at the August/September meeting and any SAC member can attend these trainings (Executive). Dale Boyle seconded the motion.

Motion #6 – 17 approved; 1 abstention; 0 opposed. Motion is carried

Subcommittee updates:

Dispute Resolution: No updates
Reading Proficiency: No updates
Parent Engagement: No updates
By-Law Committee: Nothing yet

Goals for subcommittees are to wrap up by September meeting and have plans going forward, then new priorities.

When subcommittees are formed, they shall state purpose, duration, and potential outcomes. They shall appoint a chair, note taker and report back to the full SAC membership. The public can be invited to participate, and meetings are also open to the general public. Subcommittee chairs are responsible for providing notes and a summary of work to the SAC chair for inclusion to the SAC Annual Report.

Old Business - New Business & Announcements:

Restructuring the committee meeting to include 15-20 minutes for groups to go off and talk about different priorities, etc. and then come back and share with the group. It was done before, but it just depended on the chair at the time.

It was requested that the meeting minutes come out earlier than a few days before the next meeting. Jennifer Blagriff would like it two weeks before the next meeting and she is fine with it not coming to her as the chairperson first. Perhaps a list with action items and when the next meeting is, can be sent out within the week after the meeting to members.

A Parent "Cheat Sheet" was brought up to have with all resource information available to then and for schools to be able to give out to the parents at the beginning of their child's school year. It was also discussed to bring this to the commissioner.

It was brought up that we have a PIC representative - perhaps it could be an agenda item for the next time. They are a great resource, but you must seek them out.

There was a request to look at the procedural safeguards to see if they are clear and parent friendly and potentially adjust them. Becky said that the department will be reaching out to stakeholders to look at them.

Procedural Safeguards are not a requirement for schools to use, they can create and use their own procedural safeguards.

The committee can suggest in their letter to the commissioner that you feel legislation is needed to address the procedural safeguards issue in allowing districts to create their own instead of using the state ones. Representative Mullen said that we would want to consider making this recommendation to the commissioner to do some sort of review of the procedural safeguard literature, whether it be state or federal and if legislation is needed that either she or Representative Cordelli would not think that that was a great idea to have uniform procedural safeguards across the state. It is federal law that you must provide procedural safeguards to parents.

A parent reached out to see if her 13-year-old is old enough to be a student with a disability for the SAC committee.

The next subject was restraint and seclusion, and Becky informed the group that this is general education because it is for all students and not specific to special education students and she does not have oversight of it. She said she could have someone come talk to the group, but it is meant for all students. The Office of Governance gets the information reported regarding this and investigates if there is a complaint.

There was discussion around the "21 Inclusive" bill and the logistics around how this will work for schools and the funding to help if needed just for the first year.

William Caruso from Belmont NH was nominated and has attended three meetings, followed up with an email and has had no response. He was nominated by Tracy Walbridge, and this was seconded by Greg Magoon.

Motion #7 – 13 approved; 1 abstention; 0 opposed

He also had a question regarding the special education process, being a parent of a nonverbal autistic child and trying to learn all the ins and outs of the special ed process. Is there anything in the works to support parents and help educate them before they find out they have missed timelines, etc. It is a lot for parents who are working and trying to support the needs of their child. Many parents, from my point of view, are always at a disadvantage, always one step behind or missing out on key points,

Motion to adjourn by Janet Reed and seconded by Dale Boyle

Motion #8 - 14 approved; 0 abstention; 0 opposed