

State Advisory Committee (SAC)
For the Education of Children with Disabilities
Advising the NH Department of Education per RSA 186-C:3-b

Via Zoom
4:30pm – 7:00pm

May 6, 2020

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Lisa Beaudoin (chair), Bonnie Dunham (vice-chair), Kevin Cushing, Alicia Ferguson, Karen Rosenberg, Bebe Casey, Leah Lucier-Pike, Kari Grimes, Le' Ann Millender, Esther Kennedy, Maureen Shields, Janet Reed, Susan Rasicot, Gregg Magoon, Jill Hartmann, Representative Glenn Cordelli, Moria Ryan, Kerri-Lynn Kimner, Sandra Rauechle, Jason Henry

Absent:

Tina Greco, Violetta Lortie, Melissa McKeon, Representative Tamara Le, Christopher O'Reilly, Meagan Cullinane, Anna Barrows, Thomas Ryan, Kelly Walker, Dale Boyle, Mike Pinard, Senator Jean Dietsch, Senator J. Kahn

Guests:

Rebecca Fredette, Administrator, Bureau of Student Support
Maureen Tracey
Katherine Shea, Parent from Goffstown
Tracy Walbridge

Welcome, Introductions of SAC Members & Guests

- Lisa Beaudoin, Chair, began the meeting at 4:35pm
- SAC members introduced themselves and their role on SAC

Public Comment

SAC had three guests attend tonight's virtual meeting

Maureen Tracey, past SAC Chair/Member

Maureen shared input she received from parents around the state in a variety of school districts."

- Some districts there are zero paraprofessional support help
- Some districts are not modifying the curriculum
- Special Education students are not being invited to the regular classroom
- ESY not being discussed
- Improvement instead of regression due to the work parents are doing
- Public guidance is needed in the form of video and written formation
- Kiddos who have already fallen through the crack are falling further into the crack

Public Comment (Cont'd)

Katherine Shea, Parent from Goffstown

Informal advocate for autism students in the State. Saw survey results, unformed did not get to participate.

- Para's need to be engaged
- Feedback on the survey resonate with her. Teachers are doing a great job, para's are doing great jobs, however kids are falling through the cracks.
- Wanted to share her feelings with the group.

Tracy Walbridge, just listening for today

Bonnie advised the guests that SAC has vacancies if interested in becoming a member.

Approval of Minutes

- ✓ Approval of the March 4, 2020 meeting minutes. Esther made a motion to approve the March minutes, Jason seconded the motion.
March 4, 2020 Meeting Minutes approved 10 in favor, 10 abstentions, 0 opposed.
- ✓ Approval of April 1, 2020 meeting minutes Bonnie made a motion to approve the April minutes as amended*, Esther seconded the motion.
April 1, 2020 Meeting Minutes approved 14 in favor, 5 abstentions, 0 opposed

* IEP changes should not be made due to remote learning. They should be made based on students needs. At this point IEPs should not be amended to include compensatory services.

Bureau update from Rebecca Fredette, Administrator, Bureau of Student Support (Commissioner Edelblut may join at some point during the NH SAC Committee meeting)

The Bureau is working with Public Consulting Group (PCG), for NHSEIS to have the option for electronic signature for parents, looking to have available during the next few weeks.

There will be a Parent Portal (parent connect) for access to electronically sign IEPs. Can be used by school districts or not, optional use. This is secure system, access via code, forms sent will be password protected, parents will receive an e-mail for a one-time code to enter and sign the IEP.

Monitoring, how is monitoring going to look over the next year, monitoring with fidelity understanding what is going on right now. The Bureau is currently working with districts on trainings virtually.

Waiver for statewide assessments, no assessments for students DLM students

Title I grant have been extended for a year

i4see has changed some dates due to the pandemic

No new staff due to a hiring freeze

Credentialing was going to have a change next year, however due to JCLAR not meeting, working towards teacher certification online

The Bureau's new staff member, Jen Doris is overseeing the Educational Surrogate Parent Program.

BeBe inquired on the status of the Reading Specialist position in the Department. The position has been approved by Governor & Council, however, due to the hiring freeze has not been posted.

Bebe: the resource page has disappeared on the Department's website; the Dyslexia Guide and resources are gone.

Becky will locate and e-mail Bebe, with a cc to Lisa, where on the website they can locate.

Bonnie – there are some great things happening, does the Department have a mechanism for sharing information? Sharing of best practices/new ideas would benefit the field. Becky has asked folks to share ideas, if she knows of districts doing great things, can be shared with the field. Esther stated that sharing has been happening at their regional meetings.

Janet – sharing within the southcentral group, people are talking, special education directors are looking for resources.

Maureen – Parent Information Center has had 30 telephone calls, regarding evaluations, reevaluations or evaluations in process. The word they are getting is they will not happen until the fall. Why can't we do evaluations remotely. Putting off until September is not an option, if due in May and are a senior in high school.

Becky has had discussions with Directors regarding evaluations. Timelines to be extended? No, Secretary DeVos did not extend timelines. Waivers around ESS referrals, but no other waivers. Becky has sent out guidance.

Jill - Parents aren't willing to bring their students in. Need to do evaluations that are meaningful, so many things that are problematic not worth doing remotely.

A discussion was held on evaluations and reevaluations. What if referred and cannot have the evaluation?

Karen made a recommendation that Commissioner Edelblut ask the Governor to issue an executive order to instruct schools that they should be educating children in schools, on an individualized basis, in small cohorts and if they lack the staff to provide these services, follow guidelines for social distancing or small cohorts to be in schools for evaluations, services that can't be delivered remotely.

Esther – Need the Governor to say that is acceptable to bring students into the schools for small group instructions. We also need him to suggest what the education environment should look like for this instruction.

For students who are not able to benefit from full time remote learning, school district can provide small group instruction, permissive schools districts are allowed to provide students individually or in small groups under safety protocols are followed, remain current with all CDC recommends. Bonnie motion, Karen seconded

The SAC requests that the Education Commissioner seek an executive order from the Governor as follows:

Whereas there are students whose educational needs cannot be fully met from remote instruction, it is ordered that school districts are allowed to provide in-person education to student individually, small groups, at school, homes or other environments as long as the appropriate social distance protocols, in accordance with current CDC recommendations are followed.

A motion was made by Bonnie, seconded by Karen, to use the following language:

The State Advisory Committee (SAC) requests that the Education Commissioner seek an Executive Order from the Governor as follows.

Whereas there are students whose educational needs cannot be fully met from remote instruction, it is Ordered that School districts are allowed to provide in-person education to such students, with and without disabilities, individually, in small groups, at school, homes or other environments as long as appropriate social distance protocols, in accordance with current CDC recommendations, are followed.

Esther is concerned that a Parent Survey that was issued by ABLE NH and PIC was not issued statewide. Esther did not receive the survey; therefore she was able to send to her families. If we are going to look at as an organization, we should have a point of clarification. Leah agrees with Esther, she did not receive the survey either, and would have liked the opportunity to respond.

The survey link was sent to the Commissioner and Angela, as well as linked to several pages by ABLE NH, PIC and DRC.

Janet – the survey did not go out broadly and that worries her; distributed through the PIC network, some school districts, ABLE NH, IHEs and some social media. Lisa, Bonnie –shared with NH Family Voices, Facebook Groups, shared to 35 Facebook groups, many Lisa had not heard of. 90% of the families that left their contact information, ABLE NH was not aware of.

What is the intent?

Sent to NHASEA and Jen Pomkato. Will share with the Commissioner, Rebecca, the Governor's Office, and broadly shared publicly shared as possible, all stakeholders in special education should see this. There are many good things going on with remote learning, also to track trends of what is not working.

Nominate and vote for the 2020-2021 Chair of the SAC

Bonnie nominated Lisa Beaudoin for the SAC Chair for 2020-2021, seconded by Jason.

Any other nominations? No additional nominations. A roll call was held, the following SAC members voted "Yes."

- ✓ Bonnie Dunham
- ✓ Kevin Cushing
- ✓ Alicia Ferguson
- ✓ Karen Rosenberg
- ✓ Bebe Casey
- ✓ Leah Lucier-Pike
- ✓ Kari Grimes
- ✓ Le'Ann Millender
- ✓ Esther Kennedy
- ✓ Maureen Shields
- ✓ Janet Reed
- ✓ Susan Rasicot
- ✓ Gregg Magoon,
- ✓ Jill Hartmann
- ✓ Moria Ryan
- ✓ Kerri-Lynn Kimmer
- ✓ Sandra Rauechle
- ✓ Jason Henry

If anyone is interested in becoming a vice-chair, please e-mail Lisa.

Nominations, Old Business, New Business, Announcements, Comments from the Chair Nominations – New business items

Old Business

SAC sent out the letter today to the Commissioner, which was approved in April, commending the effort in launching remote learning and incoming funds target students with disabilities
Karen requested that the letter be distributed to the SAC members.

New Business

By close of business on Friday today's recommendation shall be sent to the Commissioner.

Bonnie – the survey results and today's discussion tie into our goal family engagement.

Lisa – link to the webinar hosted by DRC, PIC and ABLE NH for parents of students receiving special education in the time of remote learning, will be available in Spanish by Friday.

<https://drcnh.org/upcoming-event/special-education-and-covid-19-understanding-your-rights/>

6:52pm Janet made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jason.. All in favor.

Next meeting – Retreat | September 9th or September 16th,
TBD