

**Wisconsin Council on Special Education**  
**Meeting Minute Draft**

Meeting Date: March 15, 2019

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Department of Public Instruction, Room P41

**Council members in attendance:** Kristi Burki, Victoria Davila-Davis, Nicole Frolke, Mackenzie Gabler, Pamela Hencke, Amanda Mack, Kelly Mechelke, Jennifer Mims-Howell, Sara Nerenhausen, Nelsinia Ramos, Lynette Stansfield, Amy Stevens, and Carla Witkowski.

DPI Staff in attendance: Daniel Parker, Julia Hartwig, Courtney Jenkins, Carolyn Kiefer, Ben Jones, and Barbara Van Haren.

**10:00 – 3:00 pm**

1. **BUSINESS MEETING #321:** Meeting called to order at 10:05 am. It was seconded. The meeting came to order.
2. **Introductions:** There were no introductions
3. **Public Appearances:** None
4. **Minutes of Meeting #320:** Council members reviewed minutes. There was a motion to approve the minutes and was seconded and accepted.
5. **Correspondence/Chairpersons' Report, Jennifer Mims-Howell**
  - a. Updates on Electronic Public Forum (March 6-13, 2019): There were 59 responses. Members felt the Public Forum was a better structure than the past and was pleased to have 59 participants. Council considered ways to host public forum in the future.
  - b. Ad Hoc Committee Update: There were no reports on the Ad Hoc Committee.
  - c. Vote on new dates for 2019-2020: Council reviewed the tentative 2019-2020 Council Meeting dates and suggested approval with a few editing changes. New Council dates were reviewed and approved. 2019-2020 Council meeting dates are September 27, 2019, December 6, 2019, March 13, 2020, and June 19, 2020. Public Forum dates are October 16, 2019 (remotely) and March 2 – 6, 2020 (electronically).
  - d. Review of agenda approval process: Chair informed members of agenda approval process. Items requested by council members will be addressed in presentations and updates. Council must send agenda item requests during New and Old Business or email DPI council liaison at least 4 weeks prior to council meeting.
6. **Council Member Reports and Issues (Full Council)**
  - a. Members spoke on exciting items in the budget proposal. There are children who are waiting for long-term support waiting list. Some counties are up to date on their waiting list, while some counties are not. Some county's waiting list went from a two or three year waiting period to a two-week turnaround. No Council members reported on any network meetings attended.
7. **Part A: IDEA Complaint and Due Process Hearing Findings & Decisions**

Patti Williams answered questions relating to recent complaint decisions. DPI made the decision to no longer name school districts in publicly posted complaint decisions.

## 8. Department of Public Instruction Report: Information and Discussion

- a. Director's Update (Barb, Patti, Daniel, Julia, Courtney)
  - i. **Staffing Updates/Introduce New Employees:** Jessica Moe is our new consultant with a strong background in Equity.
  - ii. **State Performance Plan / Annual Performance Report:** Wisconsin submitted the FY17 State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) prior to its due date of Feb. 1. As in previous years, OSEP will set aside a specific time in April for the SPP/APR clarification period. The State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) is due by April 1.
  - iii. **State Applications:** *IDEA* Part C FY19 grant applications are due May 3. Wisconsin's applications is publicly posted for comment. *IDEA* Part B FY19 grant applications are due May 17, 2019.
  - iv. **Department of Education update:** U.S. Department of Education announced on January 17, 2019 the launch of an initiative to address the possible inappropriate use of restraint and seclusion in our nation's schools. See Press Release here:<https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-announces-initiative-address-inappropriate-use-restraint-and-seclusion-protect-children-disabilities-ensure-compliance-federal-laws>
  - v. **DPI Cabinet Updates:** Governor Evers has appointed Carolyn Stanford Taylor as the next State Superintendent of the Department of Public Instruction. Deputy State Superintendent, Mike Thompson will be continuing in his role ensuring consistent leadership and a smooth transition. The new State Superintendent has replaced key cabinet positions including: Chief of Staff, Scott Jones, Special Assistant, LaToya Holiday, Assistant State Superintendent of the Division for Finance and Management, Bob Soldner; Assistant State Superintendent of the Division for Student and School Success, Keona Jones, and Assistant State Superintendent of the Division for Learning Support, Barbara Van Haren. State Superintendent Stanford Taylor will continue to promote the continued work around equity and will also focus her agenda on early childhood. She will be advancing the 2019-21 Biennial Budget \$1.4 Billion proposal, including the \$600 million for students with IEPs.
  - vi. **State Budget Address:** Governor Evers delivered his state budget address to the legislatures on Thursday, February 28. [Budget Address](#) [Budget in Brief Summary](#).
  - vii. **Legal Requirements for Accessible Educational Materials (AEM) for Students with Print Disabilities** DPI recently issued a new bulletin, [No. 18-03](#), on the Legal Requirements for Accessible Educational Materials for (AEM) for Students with Print Disabilities, which replaces Bulletin No. 13.02. We are anticipating an uptick in requests for accessible educational material following the release of both documents. We are working with a CESA partner to serve as a Wisconsin Accessible Media Producer (WAMP) for print disabilities. WCBVI Outreach will continue to serve as a WAMP for visually impaired.
  - viii. **Grant opportunities: Research to Practice: Inclusive Communities Grant Opportunity** - Twelve districts - one from each CESA across Wisconsin – will be chosen to join the Research to Practice Inclusive Communities (RPIC) project. Each district will receive high quality evidence-based professional development to establish professional learning communities (PLCs) as the framework for implementation of the research-based innovation of Inclusive Learning Communities (ILC). For more information: <https://dpi.wi.gov/sped/research-practice-inclusive-communities-rpic-project>. **Transition Readiness Grants:**

**Evidence-Based Practice Fund - Grant Opportunity:** School districts and charter schools are eligible to compete for funding that supports evidence-based practices related to a successful transition from high school to beyond for students with IEPs. For more information: <https://dpi.wi.gov/sped/research-practice-inclusive-communities-rpic-project>

- ix. **Joint Federal Notifications:** DPI released preliminary Federal Notification Packets via Secure Access File Exchange (SAFE) on December 6, 2018 and final notifications on February 5, 2019. Public release occurred on March 5, 2019. They include two types of reports that align with the two major federal education laws: (a) Preliminary LEA Determinations for all school districts, which include results and compliance data and preliminary identification for needs assistance, under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and (b) School-level reports (ESSA), which include preliminary identifications, if any, for Comprehensive or Targeted Support and Improvement. When calculating the preliminary 2018 IDEA determinations, the Department continued the process of gradually shifting toward balancing results and compliance indicators and using the weights of **65% Compliance and 35% Results** for 2018 LEA determinations.

In our new, flexible approach, districts and schools that are identified in the final ESSA identification will be required to demonstrate they are engaged in continuous improvement - with some specific components - that address systemic issues. If a school or district is preliminarily identified for support, they have the opportunity to strengthen existing improvement efforts, at little or no cost, by taking advantage of new supports. Thanks to new coordination among the DPI, CESAs, and other partners, available supports throughout the state are built around what we know works to help schools close achievement gaps. These resources are optional, and the cost, if any, will be minimal for districts and schools. Districts can contact their local CESA to begin the process.

The notifications are preliminary allowing districts to review their data during this phase of identification and to engage in local and state level conversations. To date, DPI and districts with preliminary identifications have engaged in over 90 TA calls to discuss data and next steps.

- x. **Update regarding EIPA score changes:** The State Superintendent's Advisory Council on Deaf/Hard of Hearing Programs recommended and the DPI has accepted that the required EIPA Performance score for the renewable educational interpreter license be set at 3.3 beginning July 1, 2019, and be set at 3.5 beginning July 1, 2020. An applicant must apply for renewal of their educational interpreter license. More information at <https://dpi.wi.gov/tepd/elo/other/renewals>. Applications for renewal are accepted as early as January of the year the license is to expire, but not earlier.
- xi. **Licensing Update:** The rewrite of Wisconsin Administrative Code PI 34 has been approved went into effect August 1, 2018. You can find a link to the updated rule here: <https://dpi.wi.gov/tepd/programs/wisconsin-quality-educator-initiative>. If a license expires June 30, 2019 or earlier and the application is submitted prior to June 30, 2019 the applicant is eligible to use renewal requirements under the old PI 34.34 (3) or the new PI 34.086. If a license expires after June 30, 2019 or if an applicant submits an application after June 30, 2019 the applicant is required to follow the renewal requirements under the new PI 34.086.

## 9. Special Report: Defining Council Roles (Ben Jones) 30 min

- a. Ben reported on the Council's role in relation to advising the Wisconsin State Superintendent. Carolyn Stanford Taylor (state superintendent) sets the vision and agenda for education in the state of Wisconsin. Council voice should assist in advising the state superintendent. Council's thoughts and opinions regarding education (e.g. letters, ad hoc workgroup suggestions) should be directed and sent to the state superintendent and/or the Assistant State Superintendent for the Division of Learning Support that oversees the Special Education team at WI DPI. If a council member is concerned about council actions affecting their own employment (e.g. letter sent to state superintendent from council), council members should talk to their employer or attorney's individually for guidance and may abstain from any council actions.

**10. Special Report: 2017 Wisconsin Act 178: Increasing Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) Outcomes – Council input on Draft Joint Plan**

- a. Courtney Jenkins and Sarah Lincoln presented on the Competitive Integrated Employment Plan also called Employment First Initiative. It requires Wisconsin's Department of Public Instruction (DPI), Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), and Department of Health Services (DHS) to collaborate and complete a plan on how to increase employment for individuals with disabilities to increase employment rate. The plan will be posted on agency websites for stakeholder input by July 1, 2019. The plan requires a report of findings due to legislature annually.
- b. Council members reviewed the plan and provided feedback that will be shared with the state superintendent. Council's feedback will be considered for additions into the final plan.
- c. Council members asked questions about financing for professional development to happen with providers regarding individuals and their disabilities, since the depth of training involved to reach individuals is significant. DVR responded they have braided funding to provide customized training to providers for recipients and thanked Council for encouraging them to consider training specific to disability when providing training to providers. Presenters noted additional feedback from Council members in a round robin format. Comments will be shared state superintendent and considered for inclusion in final plan.

**11. Lunch**

**12. Special Report Annual Performance Report (APR)**

- a. Seth Bishop and Patti Williams presented a summary of Indicators 1-16 and the Annual Performance Report for fiscal year 2017.

**13. Special Report State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)**

- a. Julia Hartwig presented on Indicator 17, the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP). Indicator 17 is the newest indicator added by OSEP. Wisconsin is in Phase 3 in year 3. An update was provided on the four improvement strategies included in Wisconsin's plan: 1) coordinated improvement planning, 2) professional learning, 3) coaching, and 4) compliance practices focused on results. Previously, council helped set the State Identified Measureable Result (SiMR). Slippage identified this year for the first time across grade levels with students with and without IEPs. Council members provided input to DPI on two questions, 1) what questions or data is most meaningful to you, and 2) what information/data is missing? Council members commented on data accuracy, slippage, and the amount of testing students are expected to participate in each year.

**14. Special Report: Office of School Safety, Glenn Rehberg**

- a. Glenn Rehberg provided an update from the Office of School Safety as well as grant funding and resources available to schools. Council members asked questions about building safety plans individualized to each level, training requirements, consulting with other agencies, data reports, and funding opportunities for school safety.

**15. New & Old Business, Jennifer Mims-Howell**

- a. SPEC Ed. for You. UW-Whitewater has a new program that is targeting para professionals who have an associates degree, providing support to help them complete their special education teaching degree. UW-Whitewater is seeking how they can increase the number of special education teachers and what is the source they can use to build more highly specialized teachers in Wisconsin? Resources will be shared about the program to promote through DPI's email lists.
- b. Chair mentioned the Blue Ribbon link, budget, and the Office of School Safety presentations today were old business items.
- c. Circles of Life registrations – Sue Larsen
- d. Family and Community Engagement Summit – Pamela Hencke
- e. UW Life Program – Amy Stevens
- f. Conference on Child Welfare and the Courts – Vicki Davila Davis

**16. Announcements, Jennifer Mims-Howell**

- i. Next Meeting Date (June 21, 2019)

**17. Adjournment, Jennifer Mims-Howell at 2:31 pm**