

Wisconsin Council on Special Education Minutes

Date June 21, 2019

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Department of Public Instruction, Room P41

Meeting #322

Council members in attendance: Meredith Dressel, Sally Flaschberger, Nicole Frolke, Pamela Hencke, Chiffon King, Julie Lidbury, Amanda Mack, Kelly Mechelke, Jennifer Mims-Howell, Sara Nerenhausen, Lori Poppe, Nelsinia Ramos, Deb Rathermel, Lynette Stansfield, Amy Stevens, Tricia Thompson, Samantha Villagomez, and Carla Witkowski.

DPI Staff in attendance: Daniel Parker, Patti Williams, Julia Hartwig, Matt Brown, Carolyn Kiefer, Katie Berg, Eva Kubinski, and Rita Fuller.

10:00 – 3:00 pm

1. **BUSINESS MEETING #322** Meeting called to order at 10:05am.
2. **Welcome** The Council's chair welcomed the Council.
3. **Public Appearances:** None
4. **Minutes of Meeting #321** Council members reviewed March's meeting minutes. There was a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded for approval. None opposed.
5. **Department of Public Instruction Report: Information and Discussion**
 - a. **Superintendent's Listening Session and Q&A**
 - a. The state superintendent discussed the department mission to continue the Equity agenda Tony Ever's started and that the Equity work of the department is not complete. The department is intentional about closing the gaps of students of color, dual language learners, students with disabilities, and students in poverty. The department requested 60% increase in the budget.
 - b. The state superintendent summarized the funding request made on behalf of the Department of Public Instruction and enlightened Council members with her personal journey to becoming the State's Superintendent of Schools. She responded to Council members' questions about funding set aside for special education, reauthorization of IDEA, social emotional learning and mental health, and projects at the state level that will trickle down and promote collaboration of our schools and community agencies. The state superintendent also emphasized that the department will continue to utilize parents as stakeholders.
 - b. **Recognition of Council Service**
 - a. The newly appointed Special Education Director thanked outgoing Council members for their service. The state superintendent presented outgoing Council members' with plaques and their photos were taken.

6. Correspondence/Chairperson's Report

a. Chair's Annual Report

- a. The Council's vice chair emphasized the annual report is a committee report and requested Council members' email her their input on the issues they felt were most important to include in the report for September 2019.

b. Public Forum Review (Comments and Fall/Spring 2019-2020)

- a. Council members reviewed Public comments from the March 2019 electronic Public Forum, discussed new meeting dates for the 2019-2020 year, and . Council members noted there were trends with funding requests and mental health comments. The Council was encouraged to identify which topics they recommend the department take action and develop a summary to present to the state superintendent on recommended actions. The Council's chairs will develop a letter in partnership with the department to respond to Public Forum participants. Members encouraged that the Public Forum advertisements specifically ask the Special Education Directors to share the Public Forum opportunity with their families to increase participation.
- b. Council discussed ways to better advertise the Public Forum including a greater focus on DPI and council members requesting that districts share the Public Forum flier and information in district newsletters, web site, and district communications with families.
- c. Council chairs will work with DPI to draft a thank you letter to Public Forum participants. The letter will highlight the major topics shared with council as well as provide state resources that address council comments.
- d. Council members suggested Wednesdays nights might not be the best night for parents to attend Public Forum in-person listening session due to religious commitments.
- e. Council members suggested new agenda topics for future meetings will be an item added to the Council's quarterly agenda as a standing agenda item.

c. New Council Meeting Dates for 2019-2020

- a. New Council dates were reviewed and discussed. The Fall Public Forum is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16, 2019 in the evening. Council members suggested an earlier time in the day for a Public Forum might provide a better turnout. Council members noted Public Forum participation is more attended now, than in the past. The Council asked a few questions, 1) how do we get more participation from agencies, 2) can the Public Forum be on a day other than Wednesday, and 2) can the Public Forum be in person and electronic at the same time? Rita Fuller will follow up with the department administrators for answers and inform Council when a decision is made.

d. Council Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair

- a. Chairs requested the Council to be considering nominations for a new chair and vice chair for the September meeting. The Council may email nomination suggestions to Rita Fuller. Nominations provided during the Council meeting were Pamela Hencke for chair and Nelsinia Ramos for vice chair.

e. Review Decisions and Complaints

- a. Council members engaged in a question and answer period with the department's compliance director. DPI's compliance director discussed DPI's decision to not name districts to protect confidentiality and privacy of students and families. Since complaints already withheld name of district for smaller districts to protect confidentiality of parent, only naming large LEAs did not

appear equitable. In addition, many states do not post the decisions and DPI felt complaints should be posted for the purpose of informing parents, educators, and others on key areas and decisions relating to special education that can better educate and inform how schools meet state and federal special education requirements. Moreover, anyone from the public can make open records requests for complaint decisions involving a district and this information may be provided by request when it does not jeopardize student or parent confidentiality.

7. Idea Complaint and Due Process Hearing Findings & Decisions

8. Special Education Team Director's Report

- a. The Department's Director of the Special Education team welcomed new staff members to Wisconsin Center for the Blind/Visually Impaired and individuals new to the department's Madison office team. Updates were communicated from the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services ([State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Plan](#)), State Systemic Improvement Plans ([Wisconsin submitted our IDEA Part B FY19 grant application](#)), Significant Disproportionality, details in the 2019-2021 Biennium Budget, and explained the Scope of Statements and Bills.
- b. Proposed rules for SS 034-19 and 035-19 are still in the drafting process and are yet to go public, so information on those rules as well as an opportunity to comment on those rules is forthcoming. Emergency Rule, EmR 1910, became effective on June 18, 2019, and the related permanent rule, Clearinghouse Rule 19-081, has been submitted to Legislative Council for review and is now public (hearing info is still forthcoming). More information on the state budget can be found [here](#).

9. Lunch

10. Special Report: Overview on IDEA Discretionary Grant Projects

- a. The Council watched the DPI video on Supports for Educating Students with IEPs: <https://dpi.wi.gov/sped/supports-educating-students-ieps>

11. Special Report: Supporting Neurodiverse Students

- a. The Autism Statewide Grant Coordinator provided a presentation on Autism Mini Grants.

12. Special Report: College and Career IEP, Five Step Process, CCR IEP Five Beliefs, and Comprehensive Special Education Evaluation

- a. DPI consultants and administrator provided a presentation on College and Career Ready IEPs – Improving Outcomes for Students 3 through 21. The comprehensive evaluation process was highlighted. Council members shared feedback.

13. New & Old Business

14. Council Member Reports and Issues

- a. Council members commented extensively on the value that the Family and Community Engagement Summit with Dr. Karen Mapp on April 12, 2019 had in Wisconsin. The summit provided opportunity for educators to learn how to foster effective family engagement and Council members highlighted key points learned from the summit on the importance of family and community engagement for the academic success of the child, including effective strategies for engaging families in the classroom and at home. Rita Fuller, DPI's family engagement consultant emailed the presentation to all Council members.

- b. Council members commented on the Beyond Diversity training as beneficial and using the compass exercise as impactful.
- c. Council members commented on Determinations on Birth to 3 and that the Department of Health Services met requirements.
- d. Announcements (Jennifer)
 - a. Announce Leadership Conference (Nov 14-15) Glacier Canyon Lodge
 - b. The Council requested nominations for chair and co-chair
 - c. Agenda topics should be emailed to Rita Fuller when requested.
 - d. Public Forum Satellite sites
 - e. Next Meeting Date (September 27, 2019)

15. Adjournment

- a. Adjournment was motioned, and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 2:48 pm.