

**WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON SPECIAL EDUCATION**  
**June 22, 2018**  
**FINAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Department of Public Instruction, GEF 3 Room P041**  
**(125 S. Webster Street, Madison; 608-266-1781)**

**Council members in attendance:** Dara Atandare, Kim Campion, Margaret Carpenter, Meredith Dressel, Maria Escalante, Sally Flashberger, Pamela Foegen, Julie Lidbury, Jennifer Mims-Howell, Anna Moffitt, Santiago Navarro, Sara Nerenhausen, Lori Poppe, Deb Rathermel, Lynette Stansfield, Amy Stevens, Samantha Villagomez, Carla Villagomez.

**DPI Staff in attendance:** Barbara Van Haren, Daniel Parker, Patti Williams, Julia Hartwig, Rita Fuller, Laura Pinsonneault, Andrea Bartone

**10:00 – 3:00 pm**

**BUSINESS MEETING #318:** Meeting called to order at 10:05am, it was seconded. The meeting came to order.

- 1. Public Appearances: Attorney Chan Strom appeared, but did not speak.**
- 2. Minutes of Meeting #317:** The minutes were read by Council members. Chairperson Jennifer Mims-Howell made a motion to approve the minutes. Co-Chairperson Amy Stevens motioned to accept the minutes. Council member Pam Foegen accepted the motion. Council members voted in favor to accept the minutes as written with the addition of Dara Atandare's name being added into members present at the March 16, 2018 meeting. Chairperson turned meeting over to DPI's Special Education Team Director, Barbara Van Haren to introduce Mike Thompson, surrogate from Superintendent Ever's Office to honor members whose 3 year terms have ended and listen to Council's comments and take Council members comments to consider.
- 3. Department of Public Instruction Report: Information and Discussion**
  - a. Recognition of Council Service (Presentation of Plaques by Michael Thompson)  
Mike Thompson thanked the Council for Tony Evers and shared with the Council how important they are in helping DPI make and provide decisions. Mike reiterated how DPI appreciates the Council members' perspectives, expertise, and the work that members have done. He ended by stating it is a rich experience for Council members to advise DPI on issues important to statewide work. Special Education Team Director, Barb Van Haren assisted Mike Thompson in honoring outgoing Council members by reading their bios as Mike Thompson presented them with plaques.
  - b. **Superintendent Evers Listening Session (Michael Thompson)**  
Mike proceeded to open a discussion with Council members, allowing Council members to ask questions about issues of school safety, student behaviors in schools in relation to law enforcement practices and trainings for school staff, Blue Ribbon Commission discussions, Survival Coalition work, hopes for the new budget to reflect staffing needs and changes to concerns in Special Education. Responses to the concerns were jointly supported by Barb Van Haren. Barb provided insight to the concerns and issues.
  - c. Special Education Team Director's Report (Barb)
    - o Staffing Updates/Introduce New Employees
    - o Barb introduced Andrea Bartone, DPI's Speech and Language Consultant.
- 4. Department of Public Instruction Report: Information and Discussion**  
Director's Report

- a. **Staffing Updates:** Barb introduced new DPI employees to Council members and explained staffing changes. After January 2018, DPI will welcome two new staff persons (Iris & Seth) in the areas of Academic Accommodations Instructional Modifications Consultant and Data Analysis. Barb announced the retirement plans of two DPI veterans and expressed DPI will be moving forward with recruitment for both of those positions.
- b. **OSEP/OSERS Update: National Level**  
OSERS [launched](#) the new **IDEA website** in June 2017 in order to provide updated department information regarding IDEA to the public including students, parents/families, educators, service providers, grantees, researchers and advocates. While the Legacy site will redirect users to the new IDEA site, content from the Legacy site is available for reference on the new IDEA website on the "[Building the Legacy: IDEA 2004](#)" [historical reference page](#). The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) are redirecting users from the [Building the Legacy: IDEA 2004](#) website to the new Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ([IDEA website](#)) since April 30, 2018. IDEA website users are encouraged to bookmark the new IDEA website: <https://sites.ed.gov/idea>
- c. **Equity in IDEA** - The USDE is proposing to postpone the compliance date for implementing the significant disproportionality regulations by two years, from July 1, 2018, to July 1, 2020. The USDE is also proposing to postpone the date children ages 3 through 5 must be included in the analysis of significant disproportionality, from July 1, 2020, to July 1, 2022. We are proposing to postpone the compliance date in order to thoroughly review the significant disproportionality regulations and ensure that they effectively address the issue of significant disproportionality and best serve children with disabilities. This analysis is part of the Department's Regulatory Reform activities pursuant to Executive Order 13777, "Enforcing the Regulatory Reform Agenda." A 75-day comment period began 2/27/18. You can submit your written comments online at: [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Wisconsin intends to provide comment opposing the delay and recognizing the importance of eliminating racial disparities in special education.
- d. **White House Administration** has proposed a merger between the Department of Education and the Department of Labor. The plan, which requires congressional approval, would create a new Department of Education and the Workforce with four main subdivisions focusing on K-12 education, workforce and higher education (including the federal student aid programs), enforcement of labor and civil rights laws, and research.
- e. **SEA Determinations for Part B** will be released on June 28<sup>th</sup>. Once we receive our determination, we will include information in the weekly update. More information regarding the release of LEA determinations will be forthcoming.
- f. **State Level**  
Weekly Updates will be housed on the Special Education Team's website "[What's New?](#)" page – archived; dated and searchable.  
Special Education Team website has new layout and organization for IEP Forms (Spanish and guidance per form): <https://dpi.wi.gov/sped/laws-procedures-bulletins/procedures/sample/forms>  
May 2018: Annual forms update. Changes made to IE-2, IE-3, RE-3, RE-4, RE-5, ER-1, I-3, I-4, I-5, I-6, I-7-A, I-7 District-wide Assessment, I-7 ACT with Writing, I-7 ACT Aspire, I-7 Forward, I-11, and P-2.. A detailed description of the changes are available [here](#). Forms guide update will be coming soon.  
[CCR IEP Web Page](#) "Learning Resources" include full day training slide deck with speaker notes; five Step Process Webinars slide decks with speaker notes and [Testimonial videos](#).
- g. **Transportation Bulletin**  
The department has developed an updated bulletin addressing questions related to transportation of students with IEPs. [Bulletin 18.01](#) replaces 03.06, and will be available on our website next week. Questions address route considerations, discipline, safety and specialized equipment, and considerations relating to homelessness, foster care, open enrollment, private schools, and the Special Need Scholarship Program.
- h. **New Grant Opportunities**  
The Enhancing Sensory, Social and Emotional, and Self-Regulation Skills in Students with IEPs (ES3) grant will provide selected districts with tools, resources, processes and coaching support to examine and enhance systems, skills, and beliefs as they pertain to supporting the sensory, social and emotional, and self-regulatory needs of students with IEPs. The grant opportunity has

a focus on supporting students with autism or an emotional behavioral disability, but may also benefit students identified with other disability impairment areas. The grant is designed to provide up to three years of funding (\$24,000 in year 1, \$20,000 in year 2, and \$12,000 in year 3). Grant funds must be used to support professional learning and coaching of school staff and will assist with funding staff release time, professional learning opportunities, and supporting the internal coaching time required by the grant for a district coach. Grant sites will also receive external coaching from a statewide ES3 grant coordinator and professional learning opportunities coordinated by WI DPI. Four LEAs have been selected and notified.

**i. Transition Readiness Grant Program**

Beginning in the 2018-19 school year, \$1,500,000 will be provided to establish a new grant program to assist districts and independent charter schools in expanding capacity to provide transition services for pupils with disabilities. The Transition Readiness Grant program was established to help identify and create competitive work opportunities for pupils with disabilities who are currently not served adequately by existing programs. Grant awards must be not less than \$25,000, and not more than \$100,000, and will fund special education workforce transition support services, including integrated work experiences for students, pupil transportation, and professional development that leads to a transition credential for school personnel. Funding beyond FY19 has not yet been established. Funding will be determined based on a competitive process. We received 134 applications totaling \$9.1 million dollars. 37 LEAs have been chosen and will receive partial funding for their requests.

**j. Research to Practice Grant - Inclusive Communities Project**

The Research to Practice grant is part of a statewide system of supports for continuous improvement. The grant will provide intensive supports for local education agencies (LEAs) to implement research-based practices with fidelity, and will facilitate the collection and analysis of their implementation data, with the intention to utilize project data to scale up promising practices across the state of Wisconsin. The overarching goal of the Inclusive Communities Project is to provide high-quality evidence-based professional development to LEAs to support strategic development of district-wide inclusive learner-centered environments. Through project support for professional learning and coaching, LEAs will establish professional learning communities (PLCs) that will enable the development of inclusive learning center environments (ILCE) to help increase the knowledge, skills and habits of students with IEPs. During the 2018-2019 year, grant activities will explicitly focus on developing statewide regional coaches positioned to support LEAs in their Continuous Improvement efforts. LEAs will then be invited to apply for inclusion in the Research to Practice cohort beginning in the 2019-20 school year.

**k. Online Learning:** <https://dpi.wi.gov/online-blended-learning/online-and-blended-learning-schools-and-educators>

**l. Early Childhood Video:** <https://dpi.wi.gov/sped/early-childhood>

**m. Engaging Families Video:** <https://dpi.wi.gov/news/dpi-connected/family-engagement-materials-available>

**n. Social and Emotional Learning Competencies**

On May 21<sup>st</sup>, the agency launched “**Social and Emotional Learning Competencies**,” a guide for incorporating these practices into lesson plans, using them as part of classroom management, and infusing them in school culture. The [website](#) also includes resources on what social and emotional learning is; how this learning intersects with character development, technology, and before- and after-school programs; and provides supports for teachers and other adults.

**5. Correspondence/Chairperson’s Report**

**a. Council 2018-2019 Dates and Open Forum**

b. Chairperson Jennifer Mims-Howell provided Council members with the 2018-2019 Council meeting dates and discussed the two Open Forum dates for the year.

**c. Open Forum Letter – Vote Approval**

Co-Chairperson Amy Stevens shared with Council members the final draft response letter to Open Forum participants October 18, 2017 and asked Council to vote on its approval. Council voted to approve the letter. Council decided DPI would send the letter out to Open Forum participants on behalf of Council.

**d. ByLaws Update (Amy Stevens)**

Co-Chairperson Amy Stevens explained to members that since the Council is an advising group and not a governing body, the Council uses Policies and Procedures instead of Bylaws. The Council made mention that there are several policies the Council does not follow that they felt they should follow such as report preparation. Council members agreed to look at the policy and procedures and discuss it at the next Council meeting. Chairpersons said they would email Council policies and procedures to all members to review, and revisit the topic in the Fall.

**6. Idea Complaint and Due Process Hearing Findings & Decisions (Jennifer lead, Patti questions)**

Council members reviewed Due Process Hearing Findings and Decisions. DPI Compliance Director was available to answer questions.

**7. Lunch**

**8. Special Report: Mediation & IEP Facilitation - Context, Access, & Participation (Nissan BarLev)**

Nissan Bar-Lev presented on Understanding the Wisconsin Special Education Mediation System. He gave a summary of the history of WSEMS's development in Wisconsin and the organization's relationship with DPI and parent organizations in the state. He explained available methods to resolve disputes with WSEMS, the structure of Due Process Hearings, and. He discussed stakeholder's influence and authority from 5 parent groups and their involvement in IEP facilitation, how to pilot it, analysis of it, and the implementation.

**9. Special Report: Annual Performance Report - Results (Patti Williams)**

Patti presented on the Annual Performance Report (APR) FFY 16 and gave a summary report on the Indicators 1-16. The presentation was support by a District Profile Example for Indicators 1, 2, and 3. Patti discussed what data each Indicator collects, their percent agreement, and the progress/slippage.

**10. Special Report: Every Student Succeeds Act - Accountability (Laura Pinsonneault)**

Laura presented on State and Federal Systems, ESSA indicators, and identifying schools. She compared State Accountability and ESSA Accountability in light of their purposes, what they apply to, reporting timeline, who gets scores, measures, ratings and identifications, and interventions. Under ESSA Indicators, Laura reviewed academic achievement, student growth, progress toward English language proficiency, graduation rate, and absenteeism. Her presentation explained what an underperforming school is and why they are targeted for support. She discussed the different layers for targeted support and improvement, and explained Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI), and Additional Targeted Support and Improvements (ATSI).

**11. New Business (Jennifer)**

Public Forum Flyer Resources - WSPEI & WIFACETS have available. Council members would like to hear about changes in WSPEI at next Council meeting, including Blue Ribbon Commission updates.

**12. Old Business (Jennifer)**

Council Member Reports and Issues (All Council Members)

- a. Sally Flaschberger presented on the survey results of the impact of the 2018-2019 biennial budget on Wisconsin students with disabilities. Results of the findings settled into 5 main categories 1) a reduction in supports and resources, 2) loss of special education aides, 3) lack of child's progress, 4) child socially isolated, and 5) child experiencing more bullying. Sally will send Rita Fuller link to report to send out to all Council members.
- b. Additional Council Members – Jennifer Mims-Howell shared Mike Hipple's report in his absence. Council members announced the Children Come First Conference, Endless Possibilities Conference, and State Superintendent's Leadership Conference while stating that Council members can attend the State Superintendent's Leadership Conference and DPI will cover the expense. More information will be provided to Council members about the leadership conference at the next Council meeting (September 28, 2018).

**13. Announcement (Jennifer)**

- a. Announce Leadership Conference, Public Forum – The Leadership Conference will be October 9 and 10 at the Glacier Canyon, Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells.
- b. A Google Form has been created to allow parents a window of time to submit their comments or concerns for the March 13, 2019 Public Forum. Here is the registration link: <https://goo.gl/forms/RI0CYuLx7cNGwq1Q2>. The Google Form will be open one week. Council mentions suggested a Conference line as an alternative options for gathering parent responses.
- c. Next Meeting Date (September 28, 2018)

**14. Adjournment (Jennifer) – Meeting adjourned at 2:18pm**