



Wisconsin Council on Special Education Meeting Minutes

Date September 23, 2022

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Department of Public Instruction, Virtual Meeting

Meeting #335

Business Meeting #335: Daniel Parker called to order at 10:01 am. Twenty-Two council members attended, and quorum was met.

Council Attendance: Shanice Baquet, Lama Bergstrand Othman, Renae Bliss, Doan Bui, Loucricia Carson, Judith Conlin, Hugh Davis, Jenny Evrard-Larson, Allison Gordon, Daysi Jimenez, Lisa Misco, Jeanette Nowak Goniou, Tynetta Oliver, Jason Ostrowski, Alison Peetz, Naomi Petravich, Travis Pinter, Jason Rahn, Deb Rathermel, Jacob Roberts, Lisa Stewart, Erin Vaara.

DPI Attendance or Presenter: Ellen Antoniewicz, Elsa Diaz-Bautista, Andrea Donegan, Rita Fuller, Jennifer Hansen, Courtney Jenkins, Liz Krubsack, Paul Manriquez, Daniel Parker, Nelsinia Ramos, Eva Shaw, Cheri Sylla, Patricia Williams.

Public Attendance: Carrie Wilson-Smith

I. Welcome:

- a. At 10:01am, Council's co-chair Judy Conlin welcomed council members.
- b. Council members went into small breakout groups for introductions, sharing name, statutory role, job during the day, their hope for council, and what types of support or professional learning they feel are needed to support students receiving special education services through an Individualized Education Program (IEP). After breakout session, council chairs reported out what was shared with the whole group.
- c. Council discussed the draft professional learning recommendation to the state superintendent and determined a special meeting was needed to continue to revise the recommendation. The draft recommendation will come back to full council in December council meeting for consideration.

II. Public Appearances:

- a. There was one public appearance that greeted the council.

III. Review Minutes of Meeting 334

- a. Council reviewed council meeting #334 draft minutes and voted to approve them as written. No council members opposed the draft meeting minutes or requested revisions.
- b. [Link to council meeting #334 draft minutes](#) and can also be found on the DPI council agenda and minutes webpage.

IV. Idea Complaint and Due Process Hearing Findings & Decisions

- a. Council reviewed June 2022 thru August 2022 complaint data and decisions.
- b. Council presented no questions or concerns.
- c. Complaint and due process hearing decisions can be found on the DPI [complaint](#) and [due process hearing](#) webpages.

V. Special Education Team Director's Report

- a. Daniel Parker provide the director's update report in lue of vacant director position. Updates included updates on DPI Special Education staffing, state and federal guidance, and IDEA discretionary grant updates. Information on special education team updates can be found on the [DPI Special Education Weekly News webpage](#).

VI. Lunch

VII. Correspondence Chairperson's Report

- a. Annual Council Report: Co-chair Judy Conlin reviewed the 2021-2022 annual report. Annual reports for the last two council years can be found on the [DPI Special Education Council Agenda and Meetings webpage](#).
- b. Council reviewed past recommendations for council topics to be discussed in future council meetings.
- c. Council reviewed the process for the upcoming Public Forum and reviewed the public forum fliers and asked to provide any revision suggestions. It was expressed how critical it is for council members to share the flier broadly to families and all members of their networks prior to the public forum and asked to attend the public forum as it is a required meeting of council. Information about public forum is updated regularly on the DPI [Special Education Council Public Forum webpage](#).

VIII. Council Chairs Vote

- a. Council members nominated three council members for co-chairs to serve the 2022-2023 year. Council voted for their top two choices for co-chairs. Results were shared at the end of the meeting, showing Hugh Davis and Judy Conlin with the most votes for council co-chairs.

IX. Special Report: Indicator 8 Family Engagement Survey Results

- a. An overview of the presentation was provided by Daniel Parker. He shared the Question by Question Statewide Reports on Percent Agreement for preschool and school age surveys and provided a brief description of the Indicator 8 Family Engagement data collection. Additional details from this special report will be shared at December's council meeting, along with a summary of comments from the Fall 2022 Public Forum listening session.
- b. Link to the statewide question by question reports for school age and preschool surveys can be found on the DPI [Preparing for the Indicator 8 Family Engagement Survey webpage](#).

X. Special Topic: Family Engagement and Navigating Special Education and IEP Processes

- a. Elsa Diaz-Bautista, Nelsinia Ramos, and Cheri Sylla provided information on family engagement resources on how their family support organizations (ALAS Inc., WIFACETS, and WSPEI) support families who have students with IEPs in Wisconsin. Information was shared on the types of families served by each organization and the resources, training, and support provided to families across the state of Wisconsin.

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XI. Special Topic: Mental Health Supports and Resources

- a. Andrea Donegan, Liz Krubsack, Eva Shaw, and Daniel Parker provided an overview of the mental health supports and resources available to Wisconsin school districts as well as an overview of [Wisconsin's Mental Health Framework](#). Information was also shared on data on the intersection of mental health and students with disabilities, as well as information related to telehealth and teleservice options for schools, and the effects of mental health on staff.

XII. Old Business

- a. Suggested Agenda Topics for December's Meeting were discussed earlier in the meeting based on discussion of professional learning priorities. Council identified further discussion of the professional learning recommendation, and a discussion related to providing information about IEPs to families and educators who support students with disabilities as potential agenda topics.
- b. There were no Council Member Reports and Issues at this time.
- c. No comments were made on the 2022-2023 Meetings Calendar.
- d. There was no Discussion on Preferences for 2022-2023 in-person or virtual Council Meetings. A virtual option will continue for all meetings in 2022-2023 and further discussion can be held if council also seeks an in-person option for future council meetings.
- e. Announcements
 - i. [38th Annual State Superintendent's Conference on Special Education and Pupil Services Leadership Conference](#)
 - ii. [Children Come First Conference](#), for adults interested in the well being of children, youth, and young adults with social, emotional, behavioral, or mental health challenges. Nov. 7-8, Kalahari Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells.

XIII. Public Appearances:

- a. There were no new public appearances.

XIV. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 3:06 pm.

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Council on Special Education Roles

The Council on Special Education is a committee appointed by the state superintendent to provide policy guidance to the Department of Public Instruction and its Division for Learning Support (DLS) in matters related to the education of all children with disabilities in Wisconsin. (34 CFR 300.167 and 15.377(4), Wis. Stats.).

The Council:

- advises the State Superintendent of unmet needs within Wisconsin in the education of children with disabilities;
- comments publicly on any rules or regulations proposed by Wisconsin regarding the education of children with disabilities;
- advises the State Superintendent in developing evaluations and reporting on data to OSEP under IDEA;
- advises the State Superintendent in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in Federal monitoring reports under IDEA; and
- advises the State Superintendent in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities.

(34 CFR 300.169)

As noted above, the role of council is to advise the State Superintendent.

Thus, any letters of support for specific budget or other educational initiatives should be sent to the State Superintendent and not directed to other entities (i.e. state legislature). As stated in s.15.377(4), Wis Stat., public comment is limited to rules proposed by the Department of Public Instruction regarding the education of children with disabilities.

Thus, there are specific processes and requirements for how public comment is provided on rules proposed by the Department of Public Instruction that Wisconsin DPI and council must follow.