

**Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting Minutes  
Comfort Suites of Helena  
June 29-30, 2017**

**Thursday, June 29, 2017—Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting**

Members in Attendance: Theresa Erickson, Courtney Lynn Bell, Tammy Hogan (Friday), Michelle Halberg, Josh Wigen,

Excused Members: Kellie Ann Hicks, Theresa Becker, Robin Farrell, Christine Whitlatch, Estee Aiken, Erika Wimmer, Wendy Studt, Heather Denny, Stephen Morsette

Non-Members in Attendance: Dick Trerise, Frank Podobnik, Anne Rainey (Thursday), Dale Kimmet (Thursday), Annette Young (Thursday), Mandi Gibbs (Thursday), Susie Hedalen (Thursday), Marlene Wallis

Chairperson Courtney Bell called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The Panel members, OPI staff and visitors introduced themselves.

There was no quorum in attendance; therefore, the approval of the Proposed Agenda and the approval of the May 3-4, 2017, minutes will be a part of the September 21-22, 2017, meeting agenda.

**Division Report**

Frank informed the Panel that the division programs are driven by rules. During the 2017-2018 year, he would like to have the Panel hear about all the programs.

Frank discussed the Special Education Report to the Board of Public Education. The report is available on the Web site. He noted that on page 6 the number of students served through the Special Education Child Count and Student Enrollment are explained. Page 9 notes students identified by disability. The funding is explained beginning on page 10.

**Call for Public Comments**

The Chair of the Panel, Courtney Bell, called for Public Comments. There were no Public Comments.

**Compliance Monitoring Yearly Results**

Dale Kimmet presented to the Panel the Monitoring Report for 2017. All school districts are monitored on a 5-year cycle and all residential/state facilities on a 3-year cycle. The cycles are found on the OPI Web site.

Districts/cooperatives are contacted in the spring prior to the school year the district will be monitored. They are notified on who the lead monitor will be and offered training if necessary.

About six weeks prior to the onsite visit, caseload summaries for all Special Education case managers are sent to the district for verification.

The Onsite Visit Team will consist of five full-time school improvement specialists, a number of part-time people that can be called on and the Lead Monitor directs the team.

Incidence reports are issued to the superintendent within 10 days of the visit. Incidences must be corrected within 30 days or 60 days depending on the issue. If a district fails to correct the incidences of non-compliance or provide evidence of sustained post-monitoring compliance, the district will be issued a finding and a subsequent corrective action. The district has approximately a year to complete the corrective action.

### **Professional Development/CSPD/MBI**

Annette Young gave updates on ECPPD, Professional Development-SPDG, Go-to-meetings, HEC, CEEDAR, Para Consortium, CSPD, Teacher Learning Hub and MTSS.

She noted that the MBI Summer Institute had 1400 attendees. There were awesome presenters, 77 award winning schools; Frank Podobnik received many kudos on his presentation of the awards.

### **Federal Up-date**

Frank shared with the Panel the letter to Superintendent Arntzen advising her of the US Department of Education's determination that Montana meets the requirements and purposes of Part B of the IDEA. This determination is based on the totality of the state's data and information, including the federal fiscal year (FFY) 2015 State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report, other state-reported data and other publicly available information.

### **Early Assistance/Complaint Yearly Review**

Mandi Gibbs presented to the Panel a Review of the Early Assistance Program (EAP) Dispute Resolution.

Due Process: No decisions issued; 2 requests were filed.

State Complaints: 7 total filed; 1 still going; 2 settled; 1 dismissed; 3 reports issued—only one with corrective actions.

Mediation: 1 requested

IEP Facilitation: 11 facilitated IEPs.

### **ESSA/Superintendent's Office Up-date**

Susie Hedalen, Director, Educational Services, distributed to the Panel “What is ESSA?” This flyer noted that ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) was signed into federal law in 2015 and it replaces the “No Child Left Behind.” The purpose of Montana’s ESSA Plan is to show how Montana is working to ensure federal standards are met, allows more flexibility, allows more local control and ensures community input.

The Major Sections of ESSA in Progress are:

- . New school expenditure reporting requirements
- . Long-term goals for academic achievement
- . College and Career Readiness
- . Revising the Continuous School Improvement Plan
- . Targeted and comprehensive school support identification and improvement
- . Designating an Ombudsman/Liaison to the Office of Public Instruction to monitor and enforce ESSA equitable services as required by law for the federal programs for private, non-public schools.

Susie said that Special Education was involved in the ESSA planning.

An area that is a priority of Superintendent Arntzen is Suicide Prevention.

### **Integrated School Mental Health, Targeted School Improvement Activities**

Erin Butts gave a presentation regarding Integrated School Mental Health, Targeted School Improvement Activities. Within her presentation she discussed MBI Positive Behavior, PBIS, Alternative High Schools, Professional Development, Transition, Juvenile Justice, Child Welfare and Suicide Prevention. Erin will send the PowerPoint from her presentation and it will become part of the minutes.

### **Administrative Rules Discussion**

Frank informed the Panel that when the time comes to amending the Administrative Rules, the Panel will play a big role in aiding the OPI in noting rules that might need to be amended. Some amendments will be needed to comply with federal changes. Changes are not wanted that will take kids out of the system.

The Panel will be informed during the discussion stage.

### **Adjourn (Thursday)**

The Panel adjourned at 4:30.

## **Friday, June 30, 2017**

Chairperson Courtney Bell called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The Panel members, OPI staff and visitors introduced themselves.

### **Significant Disproportionality**

Frank Podobnik discussed Significant Disproportionality. There are new regulations, which makes for new requirements. The intent is to identify districts that have significant disproportionality. Frank said that we have not identified a district with significant disproportionality for 8-9 years.

### **Election of Officers, Recognition of Members Leaving**

The Panel did not have a quorum; therefore, the election of officers will be held at the September 21-22 Orientation Meeting. The members present did make nominations that will be presented at the September meeting. For Vice Chair, Tammy Hogan was nominated by Robin Farrell and seconded by Michelle Halberg. Michelle Halberg was nominated for Secretary.

Four Outgoing Panel members were recognized. The Outgoing members are Courtney Lynn Bell, Christine Whitlatch, Kellie Ann Hicks and Theresa Becker. Courtney Bell was presented a Recognition Plaque. The plaques will be mailed to Christine Whitlatch, Kellie Ann Hicks and Theresa Becker.

### **Preview of September Meeting—Sept 21-22, 2017—Joint Orientation with Part C**

The September 21-22, 2017, meeting will be a Joint Orientation with Part C.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:40.