



**STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL MEETING
MINUTES—January 23-24, 2020**

School Administrators of Montana

900 N. Montana Ave, Suite A-4

Thursday, January 23, 2020

Chairperson Heather Denny called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

Members present: Darrel Hannum, David Richards, Tina Blair, Kyla Rock, Shawn Sonsteng, Ron Ream, Wendy Studt, Heather Denny, Jody Bartz, Mandy Countryman, Chad Berg, JP Williams, Robin Farrell, Millie Armstrong, Jason Butcher.

Non-Members present: Dick Trerise, Jenifer Cline, Anne Rainey, Ty House, Jule Walker.

There were no visitors present.

The panel reviewed and approved the meeting agenda as well as the minutes from the September meeting.

Jenifer Cline discussed changes to OPI staff, new hires and open positions that need to be filed.

Jule Walker, Deputy Superintendent, discussed legislation that would impact OPI. Highlighting the work OPI is doing to help children and families all throughout the State. Health enhancement division posted about school safety with the legislature. Working to get financial aid relief for state special education cooperative groups.

OPI's Jule Walker introduced OPI updates: Health enhancement division posted about school safety with the legislature. DPHHS rules and impacts to school districts. OPI is working on a unified threat assessment procedure for schools and to create instruments for schools to use.

Jule Walker and Jason Butcher were excused at 9:38.

The Advisory Panel Reviewed the State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report. OPI sets targets based on data from previous years. Slippage of data results requires explanation. After the data is provided OPI gets a report card and is graded as a State. Data comes from a variety of sources; majority comes from a statewide student system managed by AIM.

Anne Rainey went over the 17 indicators packet provided to the Panel.

Mandy Countryman & Wendy Stuts did not attend the afternoon session.

Continued to discuss State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report after the lunch break.

Motion to end the day and continue tomorrow made by Chad Berg was approved.

3:00-Meeting adjourned

Friday, January 24, 2020

A Call for Public Comments was made but no comments were made. Should a public commenter appear the comments will be accepted.

Dick Trerise followed up on the division report, OPI grant funding, and grant timetables.

Panel discussed setting targets for the next State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report.

On item number 8 Heather Denny proposed changing wording from Parent/Guardian involvement as the title to say Family/Guardian.

Motion to approve
Ron Ream proposed
Chad Berg seconded
Motion passed.

Annual Performance Report—Letter supporting submission

Motion to support
JP Williams motion
Darrell Hannum seconded
Motion passed.

Discussed remote access to panel meetings. Dick responded could try. Wendy stated has success with remote meeting for shorter meetings. Will set date for meeting and then decide on remote access.

Jenifer Cline personally thanked everyone on the panel for their time and support.

JP Williams stated it is important how we celebrate the successes we have to the staff and schools to create a positive buzz about Special Education.

Panel Member Information Sheets, Travel Claims, and Certificate of Renewal Units were distributed.

Motion to adjourn: JP Williams
2nd David Richards
Meeting adjourned

11:45-Adjourn

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