



STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL MEETING NOTES

March 10, 2021 9:00 am – 12:00 am

9:30-9:45 Welcome: Call the Meeting to Order—Chairperson JP Williams

Superintendent Arntzen shared current legislative items and the importance of equity in Montana's educational system.

JP introduced Opal Besaw to the Superintendent and she discussed her current involvements. The Superintendent thanked Opal for her service to her community. Opal stressed the need for mental health support for students especially during the pandemic.

Members Present: JP Williams, Mandy Countryman, Millie Armstrong, Chad Berg, Opal Besaw, Darrel Hannum, Dave Richards, Wendy Studt, Jody Bartz, Heather Denny, Nicole Thuotte, Tina Blair, Ron Ream

Staff Present: Anne Rainey, Jenifer Cline, Ty House, Danni McCarthy, Dale Kimmet, Chris McCrea, Annette Young, Jessie Counts, Kelley Brown, Sheryl Allen, Tracy Moseman,

Public Present: Ally Seneczko, Christa Gabriel

Review/Approve the Proposed Agenda— (Action Item)

Proposed: Jody Bartz
2nd: Dave Richards
Approved: Approved

Review/Approve Minutes of September Meeting— (Action Item)

Proposed: Dave Richards
2nd: Jody Bartz
Approved: Approved

The Panel reviewed the SEA special education budget, and the State part B application process. The application is posted for 60 days with 30 days of public comment.

They also reviewed the IDEA special education budget requirements and allowable costs.

As well as the SEA special education activities associated with budget items.

Opal asked if students could make public comments about State spending. Yes.

The meeting was opened for public comment. There were no public comments.

Jenifer Cline continued to review the SEA Special Education Budget.

Jenifer Cline opened the meeting for Panel comments.

Jody Bartz asked, if there was a way to send the covered information in print, for people who are not as versed in budgets.

Jenifer Cline offered to sit down with anyone from the panel to discuss the covered information.

Heather Denny asked if OPI could offer more homelessness training for teachers and administrators. Jenifer Cline said to make a comment during the open comment period.

Discussions around trainings for teachers and administrators were discussed.

JP Williams asked Panel members to send a value statement to Jenifer Cline about the value of the Advisory Panel.

Motion: Ron Ream

2nd: Chad Berg

12:00 – Adjournment