

STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL MEETING MINUTES
PROPOSED AGENDA—May 11, 2023
Delta Hotel Helena Colonial / 2301 Colonial Drive, Helena

8:30 Welcome & Introductions – Marisa Britton-Bostwick – SEAP Chair

Marisa Britton-Bostwick proposed a prison trip by panel members and will send an email to the Panel with proposed dates.

Members Present: Marisa Britton-Bostwick, Jennifer Schoffer Closson, Vena Dagnall, Millie Armstrong, Christa Gabriel, Lindy Thomas, Angel Turoski, Norah Barney, Ester Kirsch, Serena Wright, Theresa Baldry

Members Not Present: Chad Berg, Lindy Thomas, Lacey Keller, Cindy Galbavy, Opal Besaw, Stephanie Brunner, Deva McNiven, Rebekah Sirrine, Sandy Cade, Lisa Fant

Staff Present: JP Williams, Ty House, John Gorton, Mandi Gibbs, Patrick Cates.

Public Present: None

Approve the Proposed Agenda and the Changes— (Action Item)

Proposed: Jennifer Schoffer Closson

2nd: Angel Turoski

Approved: Yes

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

Requested meeting minute amendments:

- Jennifer Schoffer Closson was the chair of the March meeting.
- Add discussion after 1%
- Marissa Britton-Bostwick did not attend the meeting.
- Clarification of a statement made by Theresa Baldry

Proposed: Millie Armstrong

2nd: Nora Barney

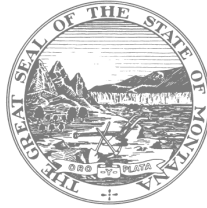
Approved: Yes

Mandi Gibbs (OPI Early Assistance Director) covered dispute resolution options and services.

Montana’s IDEA Dispute Resolution Comparison Chart is available on the OPI website. Angie Griner was mentioned as a dispute resolution resource.

The EAP (Early Assistance Program) is specific to Montana and the first step in dispute resolution.





The IEP Facilitation page of the OPI website was reviewed by Mandi Gibbs.

A copy of Mandi Gibbs' Power Point presentation will be emailed to the Panel members.

John Gorton (School Improvement Unit Manager) discussed monitoring and compliance and reviewed a handout provided to the Panel members titled: General Supervision & Compliance.

Zoom IEPs were brought up as an option for families that need accommodation, due to hardships. It was also mentioned face to face IEPs are not always the best option for all families and can inhibit accessibility in some cases.

IEP Compliance and Monitoring was brought up as an issue because it is not currently occurring.

Annette Vicedo Young (SSIP Director) discussed the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP), a Federal mandate under IDEA and a required indicator of the Annual Performance Report (Indicator 17).

Annette Vicedo Young brought up the Montana Alternative Student Testing (MAST) Pilot. More information is available on the OPI website.

JP Williams covered some OPI SPED initiatives and updates. The annual State Part B application for Federal Special Education funds resulted in a funding increase. Specific information is available on the OPI website.

The OSEP visit will occur on June 26th-30th. The Panel was advised that they may be contacted by OSEP monitors.

JP Williams brought up the statewide data profile overview and encouraged recommendations from Panel Members based on the data.

The Critical Shortage Report of 2023 was discussed. Panel members would like a column added to the report indicating the resolution of the shortages. Were the positions filled?

Anne Rainey provided Annual Performance Report clarification to the Panel and reviewed Indicator changes.

11:35-11:50 Call for Public Comments

- An email titled: Why We need schools to invest in autism training, was submitted as public comment and was read to the Panel. A copy of the email will be posted at the end of these minutes.





A Panel member stated that the CDC estimates, 1/36 children are diagnosed with autism. National Autism rates and information are available on the CDC website.

The Recruitment and Retention work group, the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Visually Impaired, DeafBlind workgroup, and the Mental Health workgroup, reported on their findings and provided formal recommendations to the OPI. The recommendations will be included at the end of the official minutes.

Meeting Dates for 2023-2024 were proposed as:

October 12th, 13th

January 18th, 19th (on-line)

March 21st, 22nd (Hybrid)

May 8th, 9th (in person)

The Panel requested the purchase of 2 OWL's to facilitate Zoom Meetings.

Motion to Approve and hold Hybrid Zoom/In-Person Meetings— (Action Item)

Proposed: Nora Barney

2nd: Jennifer Schoffer Closson

Approved: Yes

The Panel elected new officers.

Election of Vice Chair— (Action Item)

Nominations: Vena Dagnall

Proposed: Theresa Baldry

2nd: Marissa Britton-Bostwick

Approved: Yes

Election of Secretary— (Action Item) This item was tabled as there were no nominations.

Nominations:

Proposed: Angel

2nd: Jennifer Schoffer Closson

Approved: Yes

JP Williams thanked the Panel for their hard work and the wonderful accomplishments they have made.

Motion to Adjourn— (Action Item)

Proposed: Theresa Baldry

2nd: Christa

Approved: Yes





12:10 Adjourn



OPI

Recommendations 04



Recommendations
3-23 Recruitment and



OPI Formal
Recommendations 20



Why we need schools
to invest in autism tra

