



## STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL MEETING MINUTES— October 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>

8:37am: Chairperson Chad Berg called the meeting to order and led introductions.

**Members Present:** Theresa Baldry, Christa Gabriel, Cindy Galbavy, Millie Armstrong, Jennifer Schoffer-Closson, Lindy Thomas, Marisa Britton-Bostwick, Chad Berg, Opal Besaw, Norah Barney, Angel Turoski, Lacey Keller, Serena Wright, Vena Dagnell

**OPI Members Present:** JP Williams, Anne Rainey, Kelley Brown

**Members Absent:** Kyla Rock, Nicole Thuotte, Deva McNiven, Rebekah Serrine, Sandy Cade, Stephanie Brunner

John Copenhaver, Brenley Jones- John's Tech Person were present through Zoom

### **First order of Business**

#### **Approve the Proposed Agenda and the Changes- (Action Item)**

Proposed: Theresa Baldry

2<sup>nd</sup>: Opal Besaw

Approved: Yes

#### **Review/Approve Minutes of May 11, 2022 Meeting – (Action Item)**

Proposed: Millie Armstrong

2<sup>nd</sup>: Lindy Thomas

Approved: Yes

#### **Welcome: Call the Meeting to Order – Chad Berg, Outgoing Chair**

Promote new Chair and new vice chair- JP and Chad explained the positions. Marisa rolls into the Chair position since she was Vice Chair. John Copenhaver gave information on the positions and gave a book to the new chair and the new vice chair.

**Nominations for vice chair-** Marisa motions to nominate Jennifer Schoffer-Closson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Millie, Approved: Yes. Secretary needs to be nominated – Marisa nominates Lindy Thomas, Lacey 2<sup>nd</sup>. Lindy accepted. Approved: Yes.



**Announcement:** JP is thankful for everyone. Marissa- large amount of people coming into corrections at ages 18-21. She would appreciate any help. Has full SPED department support. Serves them to age 22.

Opal Besaw- Gold Award for Girl Scouts-Highest award- Slide show-she is willing to share it. Taking classes at FVCC. She is going for a Creative Writing degree.

Question: Opal's mother, Amy Besaw, works in Sped and is having a difficult year. She would like to talk about it during public time. Public comment at 10:00.

Jennifer Schoffer-Closson and Lindy Thomas think it would be great to have a para on the panel.

Motion to have a para on the panel- Jen Schoffer-Closson made the motion, Lindy Thomas 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Table until we meet at 12:30

Bylaws would have to be changed. John Copenhaver said we will be looking at bylaws at 12:30.

Change at article 2 Section A is where the change must happen.

Break time- 9:15

**Advisory Panel Orientation-** John Copenhaver- Executive Director, TAESE

Welcome

Congratulations to the new nominees

He has known all the OPI's State Directors. There is a culture of getting along in MT.

Orientation is usually done once a year.

TAESE does not provide legal advice.

Purpose-General information, Requirements, Best Practices

5 people are new

Improving programs and services for children and youth with disabilities – Key Role of the Advisory Panel.

IDEA

Part C- Infants-Birth to 2 years

Section 619 – Part B Toddlers – 3-5

Part B – School age-5-21



CFR 300.167- purpose

Question and answer

John explained what is in the folder he provided.

## **Part TWO – Setting the Stage**

Standing agenda item-Part C,B collaboration

## **Part Three – A Brief Legislative History of Special Education**

Opal-only two Universities in the US provide care givers. Section 504-can it be added to provide care givers?

Important to have an understanding of the history of special education.

Bylaws Review

Advisory Panel Function- 7-Waiver of nonsupplant requirement. State must consult with Advisory Panel regarding provisions of FAPE-CFR300.146 (C). \*Rarely an issue.

## **Adjourn for Lunch**

Orientation-Continued, Panel Q & A

- Review of the By-Laws- The duties of the Advisory Panel
- Article II. Organization – Vena thinks it is important to have a separate position for the Deaf and Blind School.

Panel Feedback on Orientation and discussions

Motion to change the agenda to review and approve bylaws during 12:30-1:30 period, Motion made by Angel Turoski , Jennifer Schoffer-Closson 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Approved: yes.

Adjourn until tomorrow.

## **October 14, 2022**

**Members Present:** Millie Armstrong, Marisa Britton-Bostwick, Cindy Galbavy, Theresa Baldry, Lindy Thomas, Jennifer Schoffer-Closson, Chad Berg, Christa Gabriel, Opal Besaw, Serena Wright, Nora Barney



OPI Present: Anne Rainey, JP Williams, Kelley Brown

Members Absent: Kyla Rock, Rebekah Serrine, Sandy Cade, Vena Dagnell, Angel Turoski

Guest: Amy Besaw

**Welcome: Call the Meeting to Order-Marisa Britton-Bostwick**

JP made announcements.

Amendment to Agenda: Motion to change Chad Berg to Marisa Britton-Bostwick as Chairperson- Chad Berg made the motion, Jenner Schoffer-Closson 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Approved: yes.

No lunch- Chad Berg made the motion, Theresa Baldry 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Approved: Yes.

Amy Besaw was introduced. She is Opal's mom and a para in Evergreen.

Review and approve changes to by-laws

Jennifer Schoffer-Closson made the motion and Lindy Thomas 2<sup>nd</sup> to change by-laws.

Anne went through the changes.

Changes were sent to Chair to review on 10/13/2022.

Superintendent Arntzen called in.

Make a motion to approve changes to by-laws after Anne cleans the by-laws up.

Accept the changes made today. Final approval will be done by email. Cindy Galbavy made the motion, Opal Besaw 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved: Yes.

Special Education Report – JP Williams

Staffing Updates- AIM position is open. Kristie Sears has taken a new great position.

Anne discussed FFY202 Determination Letter from OSEP

Public Comment-Panel does not answer questions. Panel does not ask questions.

Amy Besaw- Public comment – training for Administrators in Special Ed.

A lot of students need one on one assistance.

Para's getting more training and being compensated for it. It would benefit schools.

Window closed for public comment at 10:15.



Break – 10:15 – 10:30

**10:30-11:00-Doug Doty-** Montana Autism Education Project Update

Angel arrived 10:35am

**11:00-11:30-Review of 2021-2022 Monitoring Findings-John Gorton/JP Williams**

**Panel Feedback on meeting and topics**

Secondary Transition

Jennifer Schoffer-Closson- shared information her students gave her.

**Work Groups**

Retention, Recruitment

Mental Health

Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Secondary Transition

Jennifer Schoffer-Closson will do a poll, assign members to a work group and present in January.

Mental Health

Retention and recruitment

Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Deaf/Blind

Motion to move forward on work groups and update on January meeting 1<sup>st</sup>, Theresa Baldry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chad Berg. Approved: Yes.

Future meeting dates: January 18-19, March 23, 24, May 10-11, Nora Barney made the motion to approve the dates, Opal Besaw 2<sup>nd</sup>, Approved: Yes.

Panel Agenda Items – APR, JP said to get agenda items to him and Marisa.

Jennifer Schoffer-Closson motioned to adjourn the meeting, Theresa Baldry, 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, Approved: Yes. Adjourned – 12:11pm