



STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL MEETING MINUTES – March 12, 2024 Hybrid Meeting – OPI 1300 11th Ave/Virtual

8:30 Chairperson Jennifer Schoffer-Closson called the meeting to order and led introductions.

Members Present: Cindy Galbavy, Dr. Jennifer Schoffer Closson, Chad Berg, Norah Barney, Deva McNiven, Theresa Baldry, Lisa Fant, Marisa Britton-Bostwick, Christa Gabriel, Rebekah Serrine, Vena Dagnall, Vicki Langlinais, Sandy Cade

Members Not Present: Mildred (Millie) Armstrong, Christina Petersen, Brandi Loch, Michael Peck, Vicki Lang

Staff Present: Danni McCarthy, Ty House, Patrick Cates,

Public Present: Theresa

Approve the Proposed Agenda— (Action Item)

Proposed: Theresa Baldry
2nd: Marisa Britton-Bostwick
Approved: Yes

Review/Approve Minutes of January (Action Item)

***Meeting Minutes altered with requested changes**

Proposed: Cindy Galbavy
2nd: Lisa Fant
Approved: Yes





9:00 Panel Reviewed final draft of bylaws.

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Review/Approve Advisory Panel Bylaws (Action Item)

Proposed: Cindy Galbavy

2nd: Chad Berg

Approved: Yes

Patrick Cates, Senior Manager for Student Support Services, discussed teacher recruitment and retention and the 3 tiers of the Para Pathways program.

A link to the Power Point presentation will be included at the end of these minutes

Danni McCarthy, State Director of Special Education, discussed the OPI updates:

- SPP/APR-Due February 1st of each year. The Clarification period with OSEP is April 11th-25th. Updates will be posted to the OPI website.
- Staffing updates, recent hires and openings posted.
- Fiscal-Federal Allocations have not been received. The Annual Application will be posted to the OPI website with an open comment period. The Allocation will also be posted to the website.
- A MSDB work group and the OPI, using Federal guidance, plan to create a MT Visual Impairment Guidance Document
- The OPI is in the early planning stages of Alternate Standards
- The Critical Shortages Report is no longer available but a request for the data was made by Jennifer Schoffer Closson. An OPI staff member will assist in getting the requested data.

9:45-11:00 The Panel Broke Out into Workgroups (Including 15 min break)

Jackie Ronning, OPI, Early Literacy Coordinator, and Kimberly Evans, OPI, Early Literacy Research Analyst, gave an update on Early Literacy to the Panel.

Presentation slides available at the end of these minutes





11:30-12:45 Lunch

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Danni McCarthy and Patrick Cates shared updates to the panel on HB619, HB549 and HB 393. Open Enrollment for the districts was also discussed.

Danni McCarthy reviewed SSIP/SIMR. (State-Identified Measurable Results). The current SIMR, reviewed Data, and working towards shifts in focus to the current SIMR. SIMR must be tied to student outcomes and improving those outcomes. Danni McCarthy looked at outcomes and had the Panel provide feedback.

****Documents provided to Panel members will be included at the end of these minutes****

2:00-2:15 The Panel broke into Workgroup Breakout Rooms

The Panel Members Shared the discussions in the breakout groups with the rest of the Panel.

Next Meeting/Joint Stakeholder Meetings will occur on April 24th and 25th. Dispute resolution and Financial pieces as well as breakout group focuses are proposed agenda items.

2:30-3:15 Break

3:15-3:30 Call for Public Comments (The chair of the panel may, at their discretion, allow public comment during the meeting.)

Jennifer Schoffer Closson provided public comment. Thankful for getting the Para Pathways program up and running.

Move to Adjourn— (Action Item)

Proposed: Theresa Baldry

2nd: Chad Berg





Approved: Yes

3:30 Adjourn



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Para Pathways.pdf



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