

Special Education Advisory Council Meeting  
August 6, 2018

**Special Education Advisory Council Members**

<b>Parent Advocates</b>	<b>Special Education Directors/Leaders</b>	<b>Organizations</b>
Sonya Lawrence-Parent Advocate	Dr. Michele Marinucci- Dir. Woodbridge School District and DASEP President	Kendall Massett-DE Charter Network
Bill Doolittle-Parent Advocate	Dr. Lisa Lawson-Dir. Brandywine School District and DASEP VP	John Marinucci-DE School Boards Association
Dafne Carnright, Autism Delaware	Dr. Josette McCullough-Dir. Appoquinimink School District and DASEP Secretary	Mondaria Batchelor-DSEA Member
Kristin Pidgeon, Down Syndrome Association	Dr. Sarah Celestin-Dir. Red Clay School District and DASEP Treasurer	Kristin Dwyer-DSEA Representative
Annalisa Ekbladh, Autism Delaware	Dr. Jon Cooper-Dir. Colonial School District	Katheryn Herel, Parent Information Center of Delaware
Wendy Strauss-Governor's Advisory Council for Exc. Citizens	Dawn Alexander-Early Childhood Rep	Rep. Kim Williams, Legislator
Sybil Baker	Dr. Vince Winterling-DE Autism Program	Tammy Croce
	Laurie Kettle-Rivera-DE School for Deaf	Debby Boyer, UD PBS Project
	Mark Campano-DE Statewide Programs	Mary Ann Mieczkowski-DE Dept. of Education
		Elisha Jenkins, DVI

<b>Public Attendees</b>	<b>X if you wish to make Public Comment</b>
Maria Locuniak, DOE	
Barb Mazza, DOE	
Tara Kelly	
Esley, UD PBS Project	

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# Agenda

Agenda Item	Discussion
Sept 6 PD Finalization	More items were added and are being reviewed.
Council Nominations and Elections	Bill will remain
IEP Task Force	Ad hoc or housed somewhere else. Who is interested in participating: Wendy, Bill, Sybil, Lisa, Sonya, expressed interest. Tabled to come up again under item 7.
Review of Governance Agreement	Some adjustments have been made. Adding in statement on process to add new members and vote on them. Bill will draft and then submit for comments.
Fiscal Analysis for Statewide Programs	Will update under item 7.
Group Updates/Discussions	<p>Mark Campano shared that overall goal of #3 has been worked on. Sarah shared that Rep Jacques and Sen Poore spoke at a recent ELA event (DASL). Two items that kept coming up was the SEL and equity across the state. Autism funding was recognized. Rep Jaques commented that he is now working on funding for more specialists to create a consortium model. SESPAC needs to collaborate with legislature to ensure we are working toward the same goals. Conversation was around the idea of creating an IU like program. Mark shared that with Outside the Box, there is a plan to make a change in local capacity. Goal is to provide better services to students throughout the state. One of our main goals, 3.1, is to create statewide network of specialists to support students with more intensive and complex needs. Sarah also shared that the group looked and and discussed inclusive practices across the state.</p>
Accomplishments and Goal Setting, as well as next steps/ Priorities for 18/19 Year	<p>Dr. Lisa Lawson was recognized with a Tribute for her being named Delaware's Special Education Director of the Year.</p> <p>A discussion was around having the entire SESPAC focus on (1) Enhancing Supports for Families and LEAs (decreasing Due Process, litigation, and legal fees), (2) Statewide Supports for Autism and Low Incidence Disabilities, and (3) IEP Task Force work. Kendall shared that the Early Childhood Council is currently looking at the</p>

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	<p>early childhood services and bringing them under one organization also. Sarah also added the concerns around Behavioral Health. Michele shared that the Behavioral Health Consortium is seeking SESPAC input around Behavioral Health supports for schools. Discussion was that our meetings become action meetings. Three hour focus with an hour on each topic. The possibility of having a meet and greet with Directors and Advocates was discussed—the plan is to have that happen in the near future (once the advocates are initiated/trained).</p> <p>Discussion was around if a due process is file for a student receiving DVI services, the LEA is held accountable, not DVI. The LEA is always the responsible party, even if not able to control if the services are provided.</p> <p>Unanimous decision to focus on 1-3 items.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Enhancing Supports for Families and LEAs— Annalisa</li> <li>(2) Statewide Supports for Autism and Low Incidence Disabilities— Sarah and Mark</li> <li>(3) IEP Task Force work—Michele and Bill</li> </ul> <p>Fiscal Priority: K-3 Funding unanimous vote</p>
Litigation Reduction	Workgroup is working on this: Enhancing Supports for Families and LEAs— Annalisa
Committee Updates—meetings and reports (sent 10 days in advance of this meeting)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Students: IEP Task Force/Improvement will focus on this group</li> <li>b. Staff/Partners: Sept 6 PD Day alignment goal. Promoting out of the box conference. Inclusion conference is March 13, 2019. Next goal is means to ensure staff receives training on compliance.</li> <li>c. Delivery Structure/Systems: Update given earlier</li> <li>d. Parents/Families: Proposal created and shared via email with the group.</li> <li>e. Resources: resources fall under item C</li> <li>f. Policy/Regulations: lengthy discussion around litigation. Seeking additional info to id core issue behind the litigation. Due Process filings are lower than</li> </ul>

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	<p>expected; but the amount spent by districts for legal fees is now being sought as additional info. Committee also discussed a non-binding review panel.</p> <p>g. Community: training Board members on Sped topics. Need more of the other items within our plan in order for this group to proceed.</p>
<p>Additional Agenda Items</p>	<p>Sarah and Lisa went with CASE/CEC to the Legislative Assembly where they met with representatives from Sen Carper, Rep Blunt Rochester, and Sen Coons offices. They provided them with the SESPAC Strategic Plan. They aligned with the interest/priority areas of each legislator. They were really impressed with the makeup of our group—that a diverse group of this size was able to come together and develop our plan.</p> <p>Bill Doolittle shared that Delaware applied for the State Family Engagement grant. If we are successful, it should support our efforts. Bill also shared that the Budget Smoothing constitutional amendment did not move forward, but the Governor did sign some appropriations to support this.</p> <p>Laurie Kettle-Rivera shared that the Special Program PLCs are being reinstated. This will allow for sharing for all districts/charters with special programs. Delaware is hosting the National Conference for Children with Hearing Loss on June 20-23, 2019. The theme is 21<sup>st</sup> Century Partnerships.</p> <p>Sonya Lawrence asked about SESPACs position on DVI being under DHSS. The conversation was had about talking about housing all of the Statewide Programs under one area/department.</p>
<p>Next Steps</p>	<p>The council determined to move forward with future monthly meetings focusing on three specific areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. IEP Task Force: Michele and Bill</li> <li>2. Low Incidence Statewide Structure: Sarah and Mark</li> <li>3. IEP Meeting Collaboration: Annalisa</li> </ol> <p>And to maintain the Fiscal Focus on fully funding K-3 Basic in the NBF area</p>

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Goal Area	Goals	Sub-Group Members
<b>Students</b>	To increase the success of students with disabilities by improving their ability to become active, valued, and participating members of their community, today and in the future	Ed Emmett-Lead Lisa Lawson Bill Doolittle Sonya Lawrence Wendy Strauss
<b>Staff/ Partners</b>	To have a highly engaged and effective workforce with appropriate values, skills, and knowledge for today - and tomorrow's - work.	Elisha Jenkins-Lead Mark Campano Annalisa Ekbach Josette McCullough Kristin Dwyer Kathie Herel
<b>Delivery Structure/ Systems</b>	1) To make available the same array of evidence based practices and models of service deliveries regardless of a student's placement. 2) To modify delivery system to facilitate the achievement of other goals.	Mark Campano-Lead Vince Winterling Dafne Carrright Sarah Celestin Jon Cooper Kristin Pidgeon Sonya Lawrence
<b>Parents / Families</b>	To increase the engagement with parents and families as partners in collaboration to support their children at home and at school with access and knowledge of the resources they need.	Josette McCullough-Lead Annalisa Ekbach Kristin Pidgeon Kathie Herel
<b>Resources</b>	To acquire more resources as needed and maximize the efficiency in use of our existing resources	Kristin Dwyer-Lead Michele Marinucci Teresa Avery Laurie Kettle-Rivera Mary Ann Mieczkowski

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<b>Goal Area</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Sub-Group Members</b>
<b>Policy/ Regulations</b>	To add, delete, and modify policies and regulations to support our current and future goals and objectives.	Dafne Carnright-Lead John Marinucci Mondaria Batchelor Michele Marinucci Kim Williams Bill Doolittle Mary Ann Mieczkowski
<b>Community</b>	To increase the levels of support and collaboration through engagement and education.	Kendall Massett-Lead John Marinucci Teresa Avery Lisa Lawson Elisha Jenkins