

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL



MINUTES



Details

Date: July 23, 2020

Time: 9AM – 12:30PM

Location: Virtual

Call to Order: at 9:00 am

Welcome:

Bert Moore, director of SETS welcomed everyone and introduced Heath Peine, Chair of SEAC for 2020-2021.

Welcome from Heath Peine, Chair.

Roll Call and Introductions:

Members (x present, blank absent):

x	Heath Peine	x	Jennifer King		Rebekah Helget
	Mike Martin		Heidi Cornell	x	Tina Gibson
x	Chelle Kemper	x	Rachel Marsh	x	Troy Pitsch
	Sarah Shaffer	x	Laura Thompson		Amy Wagoner
x	Kari Wallace		Becci Werner		Deb Young
x	Jennifer Kucinski	x	Trisha Backman	x	Amy Zimmerman
x	Marvin Miller	x	Jennifer Kurth	x	Tobias Wood (guest)
x	Brandon Gay (guest)	x	Lesli Girard	x	Jim McNiece
x	Rocky Nichols/Mike Burgess				

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KSDE Staff:

x	Bert Moore	x	Laura Jurgensen	x	Kerry Haag
x	Pat Bone	x	Amy Martin		Dean Zajic
	Stacie Martin		Wendy Coates		

Guests: Wayne Ball, NCSI; Dawn Gresham, Carla Schartz; Sherri Schwanz (KNEA); Kyle Karlin;

Reflections: Rebekah Helget

Looking Forward: Heath Peine

Our future is unknown for the first time in my career as an educator. Our goal is not compliance. Compliance leads us toward a goal. The goal is a realization of HOPE. Many students and families will need some extra support to make that happen.

Video –

Leadership is our role as SEAC members in an advisory position. Collaboration, learning and growing are essential keys to success in this role. We must have a common goal. That goal is to help students succeed. We must have trust and be able to take risks. We will not always agree. As we look forward, we may not agree but can work together to achieve goals.

“To lead change is to exercise influence in ways that move a team, organization, or system from one state to another. To lead improvement is to exercise influence in ways that leave the team, organization, or system better than before.”

Robinson, V. M. (2019). *Reduce change to increase improvement*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin, a SAGE Publishing Company.

I look forward to working with you, learning with you, and making improvement for children with disabilities lives.

Roberts Rules of Order Review – Wayne Ball

Handout

A brief review of the general operating procedures using Robert’s Rules was provided.

Agenda Approval: July 23, 2020

Motion to approve: Jennifer King

Second: Chelle Kemper

Action: Motion passed

Minutes Approval for April 21, 2020

Motion to approve: Marvin Miller

Second: Jennifer King

Action: Motion passed

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Orientation: Wayne Ball with the National Center for Systemic Improvement; Bert Moore, Director, Special Education and Title Services

PowerPoint

- You are representing a stakeholder group. You should represent that group.
- This is an advisory committee. The purpose is to advise the SETS team, the state Board on special education issues.
- Recommendations for Advisory Council (put slides bullets in)
 - Close working relationship with the State Director
 - Membership orientation
 - Understand council functions
 - Advisory, not advocacy in nature
 - Discuss current issues and trends in the field of special education
- We work for students' birth through age 21 on this council.
- State Performance Plan the state provides to the federal government on 17 indicators for special education students.
- National website for SEAC and ICCs. www.stateadvisorypanel.org
- Keep the Main Thing the Main Thing. Focus on the kids!

Updates to Bylaws Document: Laura Jurgensen

- Laura is updating to precisely follow Kansas law. We can only allow 21 voting members.
 - We must get the federally required members within the 21 provided for in Kansas law.
 - You are receiving these today for consideration. You will be asked to vote on them at the next meeting.
 - Grammatical changes are not noted. Updating to the current State Board mission and vision to match the current statements.
 - Substantive changes are tracked.
 - Most are in the council membership section
 - Adding clarification to member roles
 - Representative of other state agencies involved in the financing or delivery of related services to exceptional children. The definition is clear that it must be an agency of the state.
 - Two suggestions are made for adding clarity if you want to as a council.
 - State Education Official – you could define this in the bylaws to provide clarity. This is filled in other states by a staff member from the state department of education but not the special education team.
- Discussion:
- Keep it vague to not limit applications
 - Could we note a preference for individuals from specific agencies? Yes, that can be accomplished in the bylaws.
 - Support expressed from the chat.
 - Laura will work on the language to be considered at the next meeting.
 - Representative of state population. Historically, the State Board has interpreted this to be representatives from each state board region to ensure geographic location. Is there a desire to further clarify how this is determined?

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- What have other states done to clarify? Laura can bring research this before the next meeting. The school mental health advisory is developing their bylaws and is discussing how to advertise for positions from other diverse populations.
 - Need to address diverse populations in our bylaws.
 - We must always keep in mind that we must maintain the 51% majority.
 - Consider a nomination committee to seek out nominees who fit other populations.
 - Decisions on who makes the decisions on new nominees is not clear in the bylaws. We have used SEAC leadership with the support of KSDE staff to make determinations in the past.
 - Please bring back some language to address an intentional way to reach qualified nominees and define the process for how nominees are determined.
- With the discussion that has occurred today Laura will do some research to bring back for discussion at the next meeting with hope to approve them at the November meeting.
- Clarify membership terms of two consecutive terms as a role, not as an individual. State Statute needs to be noted here. Further definition is not included in law but has been a practice of SEAC to define it as a role. Wayne interprets the federal law on this to allow for states to make this decision. As a relative new member, I appreciate the members with longevity and the experience they bring to the table. Laura will also research this topic and bring back information.
- The number of nominations received this year was excellent but by the time would looked at all of the requirements it narrowed that list down a lot.
- Please send Laura any questions or thoughts you have on these revisions.

Consider addition of Ex-Officio Member – Heath Peine Discussion and Action Item

KNEA is requesting that an ex-officio position be added.

Bert was contacted and the request was expressed that this position be added.

Sherri Schwanz, representing KNEA and their position of representing teacher members across Kansas. They do have members across the state and share their voice. They are interested in promoting the education of Kansas students.

What would KNEA be bringing to the group that could not be added during public comment?

- Voice from educators from across the state and ability to survey for information to provide to the council quickly.

Do you have a mission and vision statement? Yes

- *Our vision is a great public school for every student.*
- *Mission - Our mission is to advocate for education professionals and to unite our members, Kansans, and the nation to fulfill the promise of public education to prepare every student to succeed in a diverse and interdependent world.*

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Is your main role to advocate for teachers? Yes, to advocate for the needs in every classroom.

Discussion:

- I think there is room for collaboration.
- Concern expressed that council voices might be muted because of having too many voices at the table.
- SEAC is an advisory Council. We provide advice to the State Board and department of education. How do our current ex-officio members align to the SEAC work?
 - Families Together is the Parent Training Center and our roles is to help parents understand their rights and responsibilities in their child's education. We work with families who have special education students. We provide information from what we hear from families across the state and what gaps may exist and need to be addressed.
 - DRC - missions to advocate for the human and legal rights for persons with disabilities. For SEAC we bring the perspective of the legal rights of the students being served in special education. As an ex-officio member verses a public comment situation I can engage and provide much more robust information to SEAC. Than in 3 minutes during public comment.

Motion: Jennifer King – Add KNEA as an ex-officio-member of SEAC, non-voting member.
Laura Thompson – 2nd

Discussion to clarify the vote:

Yes – approves the addition of the ex-officio member

No – disapproves the addition of the ex-officio member

Action: Motion failed.

We believe the passion expressed in the request was valid and is appreciated. We welcome you to make public comments and share your views and concerns at any future meeting.

Public Comment:

No comments were submitted for today's meeting.

KSDE Updates: Bert Moore and SETS team members

- **Secondary Transition (Stacie Martin)**
Powerpoint
 - National Technical Assistance Center on Transition (NTACT) assisting KSDE with Transition services. Outside facilitator was instrumental in developing our state plan.
 - Two goals have been set and they are:
 - August 5th: Let's Talk About Transition Live and Virtual. Agenda was shared for this event and registration link. Event will be recorded for review at other times.
 - Secondary Transition Resources Page and a New Listserv for Transition issues.
 - Wendy Coates, Dean Zajic, Stacie Martin, and Bert Moore are available to

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answer your transition questions at any time.

- **Transition Planning and your IEP Discussion**
 - Transition Taskforce has forwarded this document to us for consideration. Jim Porter, state board member wants to see this resource in the hands of students and parents across the state. A promise was made to the legislature that this document would be created and made available.
 - Currently being reviewed by KSDE legal team for alignment to current law.
 - Could the transition subcommittee be reformed to work on this document and see how it can be incorporated and addressed? To review the document and be sure it aligns with the transition implementation plan.
 - One of Bert's highest priorities is secondary transition. He wants to see our students graduate with skills and knowledge to live a happy and fulfilling life.
 - Subgroup – Rocky would like to be involved and would like to invite Mike Wasmer, the chair of the committee who actually wrote this document.
 - An invite to the subcommittee will be sent soon. If you would like to be added to this subgroup please email Pat or Bert.
 - Leia is involved in the transition work and would be a good collaborator on the family's perspective.
- **2020 APR Update**
 - Kansas Meets Requirements for 2020 as determined by OSEP on federal reporting. 13 or 14 years in a row to reach this level of determination. Thank you for your guidance in helping KSDE reach this goal!
 - We do have areas where we need to focus. Transition and Early Childhood Least Restrictive Environments.
 - We will be asking for your input to help us address these areas.
 - The reports that Bert and Marvin are referencing are available on the KSDE website at Data Central, https://datacentral.ksde.org/sped_rpts.aspx.
- **Opening School Guidance – Bert Moore**

PowerPoint

 - Governor's EO was not approved to delay the start of the 2020-2021 school year. It remains the local district's decision.
 - Navigating Change 2020 Document
 - Posted on the KSDE website. Updates will be made and the latest version will be posted. <https://www.ksde.org/Teaching-Learning/Resources/Navigating-Change-Kansas-Guide-to-Learning-and-School-Safety-Operations>
 - Two portions – Competency Based Standards and Instruction and operational guidelines.
 - Three models of delivery – On-site, Hybrid, and/or Remote
 - Two Executive Orders (EO) – masks and other safety measures have been required by an Executive Order of the Governor. EO-59
 - FAQ document – common questions from the field are answered here for opening schools during the pandemic. Laura and the legal team are working to keep this document up to date and available to everyone. <https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Special-Education->

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and-Title-Services/Special-Education

- Implementation Guidance is coming soon.

Heath thanked everyone for the hard work on getting through the difficulties this pandemic has created.

Council Member Reports:

- **Families Together**
 - Lesli Girard, Thank you for the Navigating Change and the FAQ documents for us to use in assisting families. Guidance is clear and much appreciated. Families together will be using this.
 - Early Childhood – Step ahead at age 3 document. They will review the LRE data and see how they can support that work.
 - Implementing Education Advocate virtual training.
 - Statewide conference will also be virtual this year. Working on how to do this work. May be asking for some recordings for this conference.
 - Participating in virtual IEP meetings to assist families.
 - Please refer struggling families to us to provide our resources.
- **KASEA**
 - Heath, Not much new to report. Work has pulled people together and virtual meetings are resulting in more collaboration.
 - KSDE has been fantastic in providing support. They have also brought in some support to facilitate conversations and they have been occurring weekly. Plans are to continue these efforts.
 - Appreciate the State Board and it's support and Jim McNiece for his work.
 - As an association we are working everyday to improve education for our students.
- **DRC**
 - Rocky, we have hired another attorney for our victims of crime support. They now have 7 staff members to assist these victims, for all ages.
 - Any kids who are victims of crime, abusive households, etc., they have specific monies to assist them and support their disability rights. These rights can be a bridge to address their needs.
 - Representative payee project – reviews of possibilities of abuse in regards to finances.

Thank you for being here today and supporting this work.

Future agenda items

- Please contact Pat or Bert any items that occur to you.

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion: Jennifer Kurth

Second: Trish Backman

Action: approved and meeting adjourned at 12:32pm.

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Thank you everyone and have a wonderful remainder of your week!

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