



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES



Details

Date July 15, 2021
Time 8:45 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.
Location: Virtual

Call to Order: at 8:45 a.m.

Roll Call Members (x present, blank absent):

	Jennifer King			
x	Heath Peine		Marvin Miller	Vacant – Parent/Child to 26
	Amy Wagoner		Matthew Ramsey	Vacant – Admin
x	Becci Werner	x	Paul Buck	Vacant – Foster Care
	Brandon Gay	x	Rebecca Shultz	Vacant - Gifted
x	Jennifer Kucinski	x	Tobias Wood	
	Jennifer Kurth	x	Trisha Backman	Tonya - Sign Interpreter
x	Kari Wallace		Dr. Troy Pitsch	Allison - Sign Interpreter
x	Laura Thompson	x	Whitney George	

Ex-Officio Members (x present, blank absent):

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x	Jim McNiece				
	Leslie Girard				
x	Mike Burgess				
	Rocky Nichols				

KSDE Staff:

x	Bert Moore	x	Laura Jurgensen	x	Kerry Haag
x	Kelli Byrne	x	Kayla Love	x	Dean Zajic
x	Stacie Martin	x	Wendy Coates		Shanna Bigler
	Jeff Ensley		Doug Boline		Julie Rand
	Tate Toedman	x	Pat Bone	x	Cary Rogers

Guests: Idalia Shuman, KNEA

Quorum met: Yes, 10 Voting members present

Agenda Approval:

Motion to approve: Heath Peine

Second: Tobias Wood

Action: Motion approved

Minutes Approval: April 22, 2021 Minutes

Motion to approve: Tobias Wood

Second: Trish Backman

Discussion: None

Action: Motion approved

Public Comment:

No written comments were submitted for today's meeting. No in person comments were presented.

Reflections / Past Chair Remarks

Heath Peine

- While zoom format is convenient, there is less participation in Zoom meetings. Over the last year we took on some new tasks, we have some unfinished business, we saw movement in some areas.
- We worked to support teachers, parents, and students during the pandemic to provide them the things that they needed to feel supported. But now we need to move forward and avoid deficit thinking.
- We need to empower them and move forward and accelerate learning. Not to focus on the negatives but focus on what we built and move forward.
- Additional funding sources are out there, we need to be careful how funds are used.

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We need to use funds to invest in our teachers to move them forward through the lens of students with disabilities.

Bert Moore –

- Future SEAC meeting dates have been sent out.
- KSDE hopes that we start with everyone in session this year so they can get acclimated for a more successful learning opportunity.

Nominations – Chair-Elect

Bert Moore – any member who is present or not present may be nominated for Chair-Elect.

Call for nominations: Heath Peine nominates Trish Backman. Trish accepted the nomination.

Motion to close nominations: Rebecca Shultz made the motion to close. Laura Thompson seconded the motion.

Motion Approved: all approved.

Motion to elect: Heath made the motion. Paul seconded the motion

Motion Approved: all approved.

Nominations – Membership Committee

Bert Moore – reviews applications for SEAC Members, they consider that all types of members and Board regions are covered. Marvin Miller and Jennifer King currently on this committee.

Two additional nominees are needed to serve on this committee.

Nominations opened, Tobias Wood nominated himself, Trish Backman seconded the nomination, nomination passed.

Heath Peine nominated Trish Backman, Kari Wallace seconded the nomination, nomination passed.

- The State Board of Education will be voting on the new members from the committee at the August meeting

SEAC Orientation – Roberts Rules of Order

Wayne Ball – PowerPoint (ppt) presented

- Every state has a special education advisory council and is required to conduct an orientation each year.
- Roberts Rules of Order review, handout provided in advance of meeting.
- Kansas SEAC Membership to give everyone an equal voice in the process
 - Ex-Officio Members represent specific groups that are important to the SEAC work
- Special Rule 51% - requires majority of the members must be individuals with disabilities and/or parents/guardians of children with disabilities
- Federal Register CFR 300.168 requires 51% or more during the meeting meet that same requirement.
- Primary Role of SEAC – serve as advisory to KSBOE, KSDE, Special Education unit, and the Commissioner
 - Give objective advice, to inform, to counsel, to recommend
 - Exercising Advisory responsibilities – you give input based on your stakeholder input

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- Advisory Council Procedures
 - Adhere to State Open Meeting laws

TASN update will be postponed until next meeting

Transition Updates

Wendy Coates and Stacie Martin, PowerPoint (ppt) presented

- NTACT work is in their second-year as Interagency Coordinating Council – Members are KSDE, Families Together Rehab Services representative, and plus KU partners collaborated this past year through their grant which focused on transition service delivery. They are applying to continue the grant for up to 5 years.
- K State SPED has developed a needs assessment that NTACT will pilot in Salina.
- Goals – how to support regional training for professional development and collaboration with schools and community partners to develop resources, training and support for stakeholders in transition. How to design a new transition support infrastructure across Kansas.
- Secondary Transition webpage overview <https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Special-Education-and-Title-Services/Special-Education/Secondary-Transition> Transition planning guide is now posted in Spanish
- Transition Tuesday Webinars once a month starting in August through May. These will be recorded and posted to the website.
- 1 hour Transition Webinars will be held once a month

Kansas Communities That Care Survey

Kent Reed – PowerPoint from Rachel Philips, Kelly Peak and Lisa Cheney – Greenbush

PowerPoint (ppt) presented

- KCTC student survey funded by KDADS and is voluntary, free
- To support effective evidence-based prevention strategies for Kansas
- Administered to middle and high school students each year since 1995
- Questions on risk factors
- Modifications made in 2020-2021 to shorten the survey and improve student experience
 - Blue Ribbon Task Force had recommendations for School Mental Health Advisory Board (SMHAC)
 - Removed 35 questions, added 12, modified language and readability & inclusion
 - Online administration only
 - 27 minutes average time to complete
- 2022 KCTC Student Survey Update
 - Survey has been published online for review by schools and parents
 - Timely changes are now possible since online platform developed.
 - Parents can opt their child in and students can opt in/out of each question
 - LGBTQ demographic questions added as an optional module
 - Social Skills scale replaced with Social Emotional Regulation scale items
 - Demographics for sexual orientation questions optional
 - Social Emotional 3 items

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- Emotional Regulation Scale – formerly the Social Skills Scale
- Participation Rates in 2021 - 251 public/private school districts participated
 - 49% of all eligible students participated
 - 90% of schools used both optional modules
- 2021 Results
 - Top 3 Substance Abuse - Alcohol, vaping, marijuana but are trending down
 - Depression/ suicide trending up
 - Depression this past year increased by 5%
 - While depression and suicidal ideation are often a precursor to suicide, there is not always a one to one relationship
 - It is critical to recognize the importance of normalizing conversation about these thoughts
 - Bullying continues to impact depression/suicide
 - Trends show in person bullying trending down but cyberbullying sharply increasing
 - The School Mental Health Advisory Council is taking this issue and their recommendations to the Board and will continue to work on cyberbullying
 - Results are shared through KCTC, www.kctcdata.org confidential with overview of district and building
- Questions:
 - What is the reading level of the survey? KSDE will research and follow up at a future meeting.
 - Homeschoolers do not have access to this survey. Private schools can sign up for the survey.
 - The Blue Ribbon Task Force recommendations:
 - Every building use 2 measures of social emotional learning. Most use KCTC and Kansas Integrated Accountability System (KIAS) for that data collection.
 - Any data collected should be shared with local school board
 - What is now considered to be social skills will be employability skills as students move in to the job market? Kent – CASEL is working on an initiative in regards to career readiness and employability
 - What about resiliency training to recognize and prevent bullying and to build the skills for individuals harassed or bullied? Resiliency is imbedded in the social emotional character development standards as well as the school counseling standards and the competencies with the student indicators. Competency teaches teachers how to imbed resiliency, self-regulation into their instruction. Addressing adult self-care has been imbedded in the Road Shows.
 - Is there Deaf/Hard of Hearing accessibility to the survey? Kent will follow up. Greenbush would have that information.
 - Is the survey available to ESL? The ESL version has not been built yet but has been brought to the Board for consideration.

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Fiscal Update

Dean Zajic – PowerPoint (ppt) presented

- Challenge of managing the one-time surge of funds
- Kansas IDEA Part B Update
 - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief - Coronavirus Aid, Economic and Security Act, Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, American Rescue Plan specifically earmarked for education aid to support anything in Pre-K-12 that addresses the impact of the pandemic, including learning loss
 - Kansas State Board of Education earmarked a portion of the set aside for Special Education, most has been utilized by districts for ESSER 1
 - ESSER III – congress awarded additional specific ARP/IDEA funds for 2021-2022 school year
 - KSDE does not decide how funds are dispersed. Most LEAs in Kansas will see a 25-30% increase in funding this year.
 - This was a one-time increase
 - IDEA from ARP is different from ESSER funds
 - No extraordinary waivers to reduce the state maintenance or local maintenance of effort are available
 - Missing Maintenance of Effort can result in funds being returned to Federal government
 - Voluntary 15% set aside for Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS)
 - Consolidation with Elementary & Secondary Education Act of 1964 schoolwide
 - Strategic spending eligible as an exception to maintenance of effort
- State level of funding for SPED has slightly increased, categorical aid funding has not been completed yet
- The Special Education Fiscal website has details on the current breakout for total IDEA funding: <https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Special-Education-and-Title-Services/Special-Education/Special-Education-Fiscal-Resources> and https://www.ksde.org/Portals/0/SES/funding/Allocations-SFY22_IDEA_VI-B.pdf

Questions:

- Regarding ARP funds, if the district is in good standing the state can use that additional IDEA funding as a reduction in local maintenance of effort? Correct.

Contacts: eans@ksde.org; essser@ksde.org; dzajic@ksde.org; cweiler@ksde.org

July Leadership Conference

Bert Moore

- July 28-29, 2021 Leadership Conference
 - Registration through <https://www.ksdetasn.org/>
 - Conference Schedule was reviewed and is available on the TASN website.

OSEP Leadership Conference

- Virtual OSEP Conference, July 20-23

Lunch Break: till 12:50 p.m.

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State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR)

Laura Jurgensen and Cary Rogers, - SPP/APR Handout

- Oversees KIAS, help school districts follow the law, monitoring, compliance activities, technical assistance
 - Each state submits annually
 - Plan that contains how the state will remain compliant and future planned outcomes
 - How we are meeting our target
- Kansas is entering a new cycle – 5-6 years in length.
 - Stakeholder input is required by United States Department Of Education and the new cycle requires even more specific input
 - Are we reaching diverse stakeholders, building capacity, timelines for reaching out to stakeholders, asking ourselves are we reaching diverse enough stakeholders, acting on feedback and then communicating with stakeholders our decisions.
 - Stakeholder website started on Friday with survey link
 - Stakeholder feedback window is open July 9-August 13
 - Targeted outreach of stakeholders that have not responded will begin in August to make sure a diverse stakeholder group has responded.
 - **SEAC September meeting will receive stakeholder feedback from Laura**
- SEAC April Meeting requests of Laura:
 - Sub committee with SEAC that could work with SPP/APR a director of program of exceptional children, Eryn John putting together this sub committee
 - Additional Indicator 2 on Dropout – could we compare the dropout rate for students with a disability and an IEP as compared to students without a disability and an IEP. This will be available prior to September meeting.
- Handout on SPP/APR Changes and Target Setting FFY 2020-2025
 - KSDE has posted PowerPoints for the required USDE changes along with changes that we we are contemplating as a state.
<https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Special-Education-and-Title-Services/Special-Education/KIAS/SPP-and-APR>
 - Link to Stakeholder survey is also on this link
 - Demonstration of Indicator 8 PowerPoint for SPP/APR stakeholders and interaction with tableau public page
 - Question:
 - Who checks to make sure the metrics are actually helping students, parents, teachers?
 - SEAC is a great accountability partner along with our stakeholders
 - SPP/APR is not just a report but integrated in to other work, e.g. KIAS
 - Risk based assessment is required by law and the results are integrated in to other work
 - Are the students who choose to leave school and get their GED being

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- counted in the data being collected?
 - These are Indicator 1 and 2 graduation and dropout
- Review of Indicator 14 – Post-School Outcomes
 - Possible change – sampling statewide of all districts every year
 - Question:
 - Is there an indicator for the students who are no longer attending secondary school who are incarcerated with an IEP? Stacie Martin is working on a new monitoring for correctional institution across all districts out policies and procedures.
 - The response is so low that we do not know if we have enough data to represent the entire population
 - Summary of the changes for a given indicator
 - Proposed targets
 - How these proposed targets are determined
 - Where the data visualizations are located and feedback
 - Kerry will reach out to Wendy for status of GED learners in the sampling plan
- Tableau Public
 - All indicators with their proposed changes from USDOE or KSDE
 - What is being measured
 - Where does the data come from – contractor that calls students or districts can call students themselves
 - How are we doing?
 - Historical data
 - What's next
 - Proposed targets
- Questions/Comments:
 - I appreciate how the data is put together and to see the progress that is being made
- For Indicator 13 the pool is graduates, maximum age, and dropouts and GED is an included question.
- Tobias – GED is no longer a generic term, Kansas has removed the phrase GED from use due to copyright.
- Indicator 8 – Parent involvement
 - In the past surveys were sent on a random stratified sample, however with this being a census year, parents of every student with an IEP will receive the survey.
 - Districts will give their parents the electronic survey since we do not have addresses for these parents
 - Concerns about meeting requirements with such low response rate
 - Large districts prefer all IEP students being surveyed as it is easier
 - Questions:
 - Who is our network? KNEA, state level teacher organizations. There is no specific definitions of “network”

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- How did you arrive at the one question for Indicator 8? The question came from requirements report. KSDE staff and TASN providers participated in the group who determined questions.
- The word “facilitator” may be a word that parents do not identify with? That wording will be looked at.
- Can Districts know when the data is pulled?
- How can we make sure the legal parent or education advocate is filling out question and not a foster parent?
- Would it help to have the question be a part of the paperwork that is required for IEP? Kansas does not have a statewide mandate to use this question in the IEP. However, there are some districts that use this question in the IEP.
- Will this increase Districts work to have it included in the IEP? Now that it is electronic it does not significantly add work. Response rate has increased.
- There is also an open-ended response field for parents to supply additional feedback.
- Indicator 2 – Drop Out
 - US Department of Education required a change in data source will now be exit records from SPEDPro application.
 - New data source has changed the way the data looks especially compared to last year’s data.
 - <https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Special-Education-and-Title-Services/Special-Education/KIAS/SPP-and-APR>
 - Question – Students who do not finish within the 4th year and come back for 5th, 6th or 7th year are considered dropouts? Laura - No as long as they are coded in the system as continuing they will not be considered dropout
- Indicator 3, State Assessments – Cary Rogers
 - Most changes of all indicators – participation and performance of students with IEP in State wide assessments
 - 95% with IEP must show on state assessments
 - 4, 8, high school reported separately
 - FFY 2019 assessments were waived due to COVID-19 so no data.
 - KSDE will monitor what impact it will have on data quality, accuracy
 - May have to consider new baselines and targets in the coming years
 - Considering using FFY 2018 as new baseline
 - Proposed Targets for 3a, b, c, d, 144 total targets need to be set

KSDE Updates

Bert Moore

- Laura SPP/APR update – state level of determination has been met and information and letter from USDE showing that we met requirements are posted to the website under

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Reports: <https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Special-Education-and-Title-Services/Special-Education/KIAS/SPP-and-APR> .

- Cary – NAEP National Association of Educational Progress gives assessment that determines proficiency however, it is given randomly across the state.
- Bert – Dr. Watson and Brad traveling the state beginning July 26th, seeking information from each community on how Kansas is doing and aligning what we do to reach board outcomes, how we are providing educational programs to get students ready for work here in Kansas. The list of 50 cities and dates will be sent out.

Council Ex-Officio Member Updates

- **Families Together** – Leslie will give update in September. Everyone is encouraged to visit the Families Together website and sign up for the newsletter: <https://famielstogetherinc.org/>
- **Kansas Association of Special Education Administrators (KASEA) – Heath** – Jamie Callahan is the new president and president-elect is Doug Anderson. Heath will be chair of the liaison committee and so Heath will be working with organizations to share information.
- **Disability Rights Center –Mike Burgess** – The Disability Rights Center has been part of coalitions and the work they are doing around transition. The Transition Transformers group just elected new leadership. The State Rehabilitation Council is reorganizing. Legislative update – Individuals with disabilities wanting to work waivers - \$727 was the base income that could be earned. SSI has increased to \$2400 and the legislature has raised it to 300% of SSI.
- **KSBOE Update – Jim McNiece** –
 - Teacher vacancy is a concern of the Board, especially in Special Education. The Board members will be working with the Commissioner on how to address this.
 - Recommendations to the legislature
 - Full funding over the next 5 years to fulfill their requirements under the law
 - Wichita has 53 teacher openings
 - Shawnee Mission has 20 SPED positions open currently
 - Jim new teachers coming in and will need mentoring
 - It was noted that SEAC did have a teacher licensure subcommittee last year and their recommendations were to increase partnerships with universities to align what they are teaching with what is needed at the school level of teaching. Also using mentors to assist with retention.
 - Jim will recommend that SEAC come to the Board as an agenda item on vacancies
 - A survey of the SPED Directors on how many vacancies they have will be conducted and the information shared with the Board and SEAC
 - Julie Rupp and Nicki Heiman were recommended as possible contributors for their success with retention rates

Other Updates:

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Council Meeting Dates 2021-2022

September 16, 2021

9AM – 3 PM

Zoom Meeting

November 17, 2021

9AM – 3 PM

Zoom Meeting

January 12, 2022

1-4 PM

January 13, 2021

7:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Landon State Office Building, Room 509, 900 SW Jackson, Topeka, KS

April 14, 2022

9 AM – 3 PM

Closing Comments

Bert -

Thank you all for volunteering your time and serving on this council.

Items for Next meeting

- Contact Jennifer or Kelli or Bert with any new items

Action: meeting adjourned at 2:58 pm:

The Kansas State Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: KSDE General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, KSDE, Landon State Office Building, 900 S.W. Jackson, Suite 102, Topeka, KS 66612, (785) 296-3201.

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