

**SUMMARY MINUTES ARE DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED AT SEPTEMBER 2019
MEETING**



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
State Advisory Council for Exceptional Children
SUMMARY**

June 17-18, 2019

Monday, June 17, 2019

10:00 a.m. ET: General Business Session I

- I. Call to Order, Barry Lee, Chair
Barry Lee called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

- II. Roll Call of Members

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Amy Folker
Melissa Knight
Julie Rubemeyer
Christopher Johnson
Libby Suttles
Eric Umstead
Anna Light
Barry Lee
Anita Dowd
Brent Hutchinson
Leisa Hutchison
Ravonne Sims
Brandi Hitzelberger
Kim Chevalier
Amber Barnes
Gretta Hylton

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bill Greer
Jessica Duenas
Tricia Gibbons

Danny Hughes
Raymond DeBolt (represented by Sallie Bolton)

PRESENT: Veronica Sullivan, Kevin Stull, Tracy Goff-Herman, Sallie Bolton, Joe McCowan, Gretta Hylton, Chris Thacker, Natalie Malone, Mary Fehrenbach

III. Approval of Minutes

- Brent Hutchinson-first motion approved
- Eric Umstead-second motion approved

IV. Election of New Officers

The following members have been elected into SACEC office:

- Chair-Leisa Hutchinson
- Vice-Chair Melissa Knight
- Secretary-Julie Rubemeyer
- Immediate Past Chair-Barry Lee

At-large members

- Eric Umstead
- Ravonne Simms

Executive Committee shall be composed of the officers of the Council, two at-large members elected by the Council, the immediate past Chairperson, and the Chairpersons of Council Standing committees. Executive Committee membership shall be balanced representation from the different perspectives and disciplines represented in the Council to the extent possible.

- Chris Johnson-first motion approved
- Libby Suttles-second motion approved.

10:30 a.m. ET:

- V. Leadership: what do district and school level leaders need to know to fully support special education? Ramona Karsner, Director, Central Kentucky Education Cooperative

Ramona Karsner led the presentation on the role of the Principal and how this related to special education. Special education expertise is limited based on minimal course work that is required. Discipline and behavior is a major area of emphasis that is being focused on. Mental health is a major area that needs to be addressed. An increase of funding is a major area of need the Council would like to look at. How do we organize support or a recommendation from the Council? Educator prep must be addressed and a plan for how to communicate the needs. This also relates to the corrections issue for students who exhibit severe behaviors repeated that eventually end up in a corrections environment. The discussion focused heavily on discipline and behavior a great deal. A structure that is built on PBIS and RtI in a systemic way with an overall cultural expectation for all students should be required (with analysis of data to measure fidelity of implementation). This should include a balanced approach of support with coordination of general and special education. Ramona will send a link to a video to members.

Professional Standards for Educational Leaders (PSEL) 2015 and Promoting Principal Leadership for the Success of Students with Disabilities, CCSSO and the CEDAR Center resource was shared, explained and discussed.

SACEC would like to make a recommendation for special education courses being required for anyone looking to become a Principal. Communication processes needs to be improved. Training needs to be addressed and ongoing throughout the year. Could the Council consider a requirement in the assessment for Principals that addresses special education content (this must be seen as not a stand-alone topic)? The P3 initiative is an area Kevin Stull is going to share more special education emphasis.

Noon ET: Lunch

1:00 p.m. ET

- VI. ARC Training: what does the current ARC training process look like and what improvements are needed? Ramona Karsner, Director, Central Kentucky Education Cooperative

Ramona shared the information used for ARC training that all 9 cooperatives provide (normally a 6 hour training). Anita does not see that the people being trained as ARC Chairs are familiar with the specific disabilities of students they may be working with. A need exists for having surrogate parents. People can register to be a surrogate with school systems (the person will be trained). Progress monitoring is an area that is a need. The training deals with writing goals and objectives and how to monitor progress. However, writing goals that are measureable for students is an area that needs more emphasis. Why are students with a hearing loss not identified as having a hearing loss? Audiologist determine decibels of hearing and multiple factors that may not identify them to be deaf or hard of hearing. The Eligibility categories are specific to identify need for services but educators must be careful to relate this to the student situation as a whole and communicate progress accordingly to parents. There are questions about the difference in use about RtI and the Discrepancy Model.

2:30 p.m. ET

- VII. Due process hearing update, Todd Allen, Deputy General Counsel, Office of Legal Services
- VIII. SACEC discussion

Members are concerned that the Principal assessment must include more emphasis on special education, RtI and PBIS. Kim is going to check with EPSB to see if this is an area that the Council might be able to provide feedback for improvement.

Recess

6:00 p.m. ET: Open Forum

The open forum was attended by one parent who spoke about her child who attends preschool in Powell County.

The Mother is wanting her child to learn how to sign. The district gave him a tablet as a support but the family is not satisfied with this option.

Tuesday, June 18, 2019

8:30 a.m. ET: General Business Session II

- IX. Call to Order, Barry Lee
- X. Roll Call of Members

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Amy Folker
Christopher Johnson
Libby Suttles
Eric Umstead
Barry Lee
Gretta Hylton
Anita Dowd
Brent Hutchinson
Leisa Hutchison
Ravonne Sims
Brandi Hitzelberger
Amber Barnes

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Melissa Knight
Julie Rubemeyer
Anna Light
Kim Chevalier
Bill Greer
Jessica Duenas
Tricia Gibbons
Danny Hughes
Raymond DeBolt (represented by Sallie Bolton)

PRESENT: Veronica Sullivan, Joe McCowan, Sallie Bolton, Natalie Malone, Mary Fehrenbach and Dionne Bates

Open Forum Feedback

The Council spoke about the need for the school district to help meet the student needs for learning sign language. Most school districts make attempts to provide supports and it sounds like the speech pathologist is having success with the student through learning sign language. The student is transitioning to school settings where the school district has provided a tablet. The parent wants to help the child continue to use and learn sign language. The overall question seems to be what is the main voice of communication for the student and how can that be supported.

- XI. Cooperative update, Dionne Bates, Achievement Gap Specialist with emphasis on Literacy, KVEC

Dionne Bates provided the cooperative update presentation. DJJ students have participated in the tiny house project and this has been a very beneficial project. Students who have participated

in this project have been working on skills that help them in the future. A *Way Forward* report update was provided and the shared.

XII. KDE update, Gretta Hylton, Associate Commissioner, OSEEL

Gretta Hylton provided an update that includes the KBE presentation about OSEEL and the purpose/function of the office. June 27, 2019 is an upcoming summit about PBIS practice. A question about the total number of students with disabilities in Kentucky was asked. The total is being looked at in relation to the percentage of students with disabilities that was shared by Gretta. Eric Umstead asked this question.

XIII. SACEC discussion

Based on the information found by Kim Chevalier, the Council would like to look at the areas of need: the law of special education, class size, LRE, disciplining students, RtI as a general education initiative, behavior/discipline, PBIS, adverse childhood experiences in relation to the Principal assessment. This may help cover critical information that would in turn cause teacher prep to address this material in preparation for material covered for the assessment. Scaling back requirements because of teacher/principal shortage is an issue and we do not want to see special education to not be a part of the overall experience. Can EPSB help shape more emphasis on special education on the assessments they provide? This potentially makes an impact on teacher prep since they are helping students prepare for the assessment.

XIV. Adjournment

- Leisa Hutchison-first motion approved
- Brent Hutchinson-second motion approved

Next Meeting: September 5-6, 2019
Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park