

Washington State Special Education Advisory Council

DATE: October 12, 2017

Members Present: Rosslyn Bethmann, Sam Blazina, Mara Bloomquist, Jeff Brown, Sarah Butcher, Lou Oma Durand, Carrie Fannin, Darya Farivar, Tammie Jensen-Tabor, Dominic Jimenez, Sherry Krainick, Laura Lindley, Michele Smith, Shawnta DiFalco

Excused Absences: Sean McCormick, Jennifer Lee, Kim Leger, Vanessa Tucker

OSPI Staff: Glenna Gallo, Bev Mitchell, Val Arnold

Note Taker: Bev Mitchell

Topic	Discussion	Action	Who/When	Completed
Site visits	Visited the Washington State School for the Blind and Washington School for the Deaf.			
The SEAC belief statement was discussed (and working lunch) (Sarah Butcher and Sherry Krainick)	<p>Sarah Butcher and Sherry Krainick led a discussion regarding the SEAC’s belief statement, the priorities of the SEAC, the areas that the SEAC is focusing on this school year. The SEAC wanted to send Glenna Gallo back to OSPI with an overarching statement from the SEAC that would positively impact special education. The group worked from the “Why it Matters” statement.</p> <p>Last year’s statement (Why it Matters): “We are committed to ensuring that statewide special education services enable every student to fully and meaningfully participate in their schools and communities. We believe that every person growing up in</p>	The		

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	<p>Washington has the right to reach his or her full human potential.”</p> <p>The consensus of the group about the site visits was positive. Teacher skills, technology, diversity of the communities, and positive role models with disabilities were all positive observations made by the members. The members talked about the need to train more teachers within general education in working with students who are visually impaired and/or deaf. The schools have created a community for their students. The transition programs and quality of the teaching staff was very impressive. The funding programs for the schools were remarkable.</p> <p>Mary Mertz, ESD 112, mentioned that ESD 112 tries to conduct one special education directors’ meeting a year at either WSSB or WSD.</p>			
<p>Visit from ESD 112 Special Education Director – How can SEAC assist the ESDs? What do the ESDs need from SEAC? (Mary Mertz, ESD 112)</p>	<p>Mary Mertz talked about how the ESDs could be better partners with the Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council should learn as much as they can regarding the McCleary decision’s impact on the school system. It will impact all school districts. Limits the amounts school levies can use on their funding. • Looking at the Safety Net system to see if it could be more effective. Very 			

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	<p>important to districts. Rethink how SafetyNet works. To simplify or modify to be more responsive. It is a much-needed resource for monies already spent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue of mental health. Significant mental health issues. Educators are not trained to provide for the huge amount of mental health issues that are arising. Not one ESSA accountability measure targeted SEL. Behavior issues and mental health issues are unfortunately fast growing. • QUEST— A program of Educational Service District 112, they provide supports to an exclusive Cowlitz County student population of kindergarten through twelfth-graders. The students have varying degrees of cognition, yet all share a common need for behavioral interventions and supports within a therapeutic environment. The ESD believes when schools and parents work as partners within a child’s educational plan, the likelihood of healthy outcomes greatly increases. • Mary reminded the Council members that as they are doing their work, the ESD hopes you have a teaser in the back of your heads—how will this affect smaller school districts (rural). 			

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESD will commit to work with you, but remember the small districts are out there. <p>Would love to hear your ideas of different kinds of trainings for parents' advocacy groups.</p>			
Discussion regarding Early Intervention, as well as potentially having a SEAC member on the ESIT/SICC board (Carrie Fannin)	Discussion around who will participate on the DEL board. Carrie Fannin will represent SEAC on the DEL board and Shawnta DiFalco will be her backup.			
WISM Data Review state-identified compliance issues regarding measurable annual IEP goals, sufficient evaluations, and service delivery issues, as well as discipline and procedural protections (Valerie Arnold)	Valerie Arnold provided an overview of WISM Data. Primary focus is on results. Monitoring should not be viewed as just a series of separate issues. Connections between WISM and ESSA – integrated, data driven, outcome based, solution oriented.			
Agenda building for next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment from the college at Bellingham • Diversity of candidates • Barriers • Concept of tiered instruction and access to the CORE • Paraeducators • What things do you have in place for sorting out the students 			

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background information for framework and how we want to move forward • Historically • Bylaws • Norms • Legislative session relevancy • Part of the conversation around McCleary – fully-funded • Have someone come in and guide the council about the impact of McCleary on 295 school districts • Possibly Tom Ahearn or video • Cal Brodie ESD 113 • Forum Q&A at the college Invite the ESDs and school principals, private school and organizations			
Evaluate meeting	Darya Farivar loved the meeting Lou Oma Durand mentioned the positive new leadership in Glenna Gallo. Thanked the new executive members for their powerful leadership			
Adjourned	4:30			