

ACESD Full Council Meeting Minutes
Hybrid meeting
Virtual Portion on Zoom Video Conferencing Platform
In-person Portion at Vocational Rehab in West Columbia
January 26, 2024

Members Present: Greta Bailey, Susan Beck, Kelly Birmingham, Valarie Bishop, Amanda Campbell, Valoree Duquette, Tiffany Eron, Jeni Garner, Heather Googe, Nikki Green, Danshelle Guy, Troy Hall, Susan Howard, Allison Huffstutler, Louise Johnson, Kerri Kannengieser, Cathy Kovacs, Angie Lucas, Padgett Mazingo, Gini Nichols, Sadina Outlaw, Kimberly Perry, Shannon Polchow, Lindsay Porter, Anne Radue, Tyler Rex, Teresa Rhodes, Liz Smithson, Cara Smithwick, Mary Stevenson, Laura Vazquez, Margie Williamson, Paige Winget, Birley Wright, Elizabeth Young

Guests/SCDE Staff Present: Barbara Drayton, Julia Drum, Sherri Evans, Cheryl Fitts, Melissa Griffin, Kim Humphrey, S. Jones, Peter Keup, Sara McKay, Marlene Metts, Amanda Reilly, Megan Smith, Mary Etta Taylor, Michelle H. Young

Welcome, call to order by Shannon Polchow, Chair 10:04 a.m.

Approval of Previous Minutes: Minutes were sent out ahead of the meeting. Susan Beck made a motion to approve minutes. Heather Googe seconded. Approved.

Public Comment:

- There was no public comment for January's meeting.

Procedure Guide and Bylaws:

- Shannon Polchow, with the help of Val Bishop and Cara Smithwick, presented the procedure guide. The bylaws were updated in March 2022, and the procedural material was collected in the new procedure guide. The document was supposed to be presented to the council in 2022-2023, but there was a delay. Ms. Barbara Drayton reviewed the document for the council to make sure it was in harmony with the bylaws.
- With the new procedure guide in place, there is a discrepancy in how the council elects the chair and vice-chair. Susan Beck made a motion to amend the bylaws to reflect the language in the procedure document. Allison Huffstutler seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a majority vote of the council.

Sub-Committee Meetings: Committees met via hybrid breakout rooms.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Preschool: Megan Smith presented to the committee about the trauma of covid and its current impact on preschoolers. The committee discussed what can be done at this time since there is a lack of data.

Professional Development: The subcommittee discussed LRE. There are gaps in the data. They are discussing ways in which they can hear from stakeholders in order to improve.

Transition and Self Advocacy: TSA voted in Greta Bailey as the incoming co-chair for 2024-2025. They began work on their transition toolkit for parents in which they are taking the online guide from the Family Resource Center and creating handouts covering four main topics: SPED acronyms, employment, independent living, and education. They started discussing what an education handout might look like, and decided it would include information about transitions, IGP vs. IEP, the three high school tracks, lists and links to resources.

Safe Schools/Social Emotional Learning: Due to a lot of absences within the subcommittee, members discussed current legislation in Columbia that they are watching. Bills include the following: S.864, S.865, S.893, S.977, S.915, and H.4653. In addition, there is a new seclusion and restraint report in the works that will soon be presented to the committee.

OSSES Updates:

- Michelle Young and Marlene Metts attended the meeting to answer any questions to from the video distributed ahead of the meeting about IDEA fiscal overview. Marlene stressed that it is important to understand how the money is allocated to districts. There were no questions from the floor.
- Peter Keup gave an update from OSSES.
 - The initial draft of the SPP/APR is due in February. The report looks at 2022-2023 data. As a state, South Carolina performed better in some areas.
 - The state is changing IEP systems from Enrich to EDPlanSC. The shift will happen this summer. From mid-February into March, the state is training power users who will then train the end users. There will be a parent portal to review documents. The system has a translation feature, which includes the five most used languages in South Carolina.
 - OSSES is getting a new web page. It will be simplified and removed the outdated information.
 - OSEP is considering bring back an 18th indicator: timely correction of noncompliance.
 - The physical Department of Education will be moving late summer 2024. It will relocate from downtown to next to the SC State Farmers Market.

Council Business / Announcements:

- The Advisory Council needs a new secretary. Interested parties should contact Shannon Polchow.
- The South Carolina Council for Exceptional Children will host its annual meeting from February 29 through March 2, in Myrtle Beach. The South Carolina Partnerships for Inclusion (SCPI) will host two free pre-conference sessions on February 29.

Motion to adjourn: Laura Vazquez moved to adjourn. Kerri Kannengieser seconded. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Next Advisory Council meeting: Friday, March 22, 2024