

The Arc Michigan Education Committee
Meeting Minutes
2/1/2023

Meeting came to order at 3:40pm via Zoom.

Present: Maggie Kolk, Emily Henderson (McCall Hamilton), Darlene Heard-Thomas, Debbie Whitford, Loren Glover, Michelle Driscoll

Meeting Minutes from the November 2022 meeting were previously sent out to committee members. Meeting Minutes from November were previously approved with no changes. No meetings in December 2022 and January 2023.

February SEAC Report (submitted by Andrea Beachnau):

Legislative Update: Dr. Sheryl Kennedy

- Senate Bill 12 – Repeals 3rd Grade Retention
 - Passed through House Committee, passed through Senate Committee
- Legislative Priorities for Education
 - Remove A-F Accountability System
 - Remove Read by Grade 3 Law
 - Improve Educator Evaluation Laws
 - Improve Teacher & Counselor Reciprocity
 - Improve Ability of Retired Educators to Help in Schools (Reduced to 6 Months)
 - Support Staff to Substitute Teachers (Specific Permit if don't have 60 Credits)
 - Expand Early Childhood Opportunities
 - Improve Early Literacy Achievement (Smaller classes, more one-on-one & tutors, more resources outside of school)
 - Improve Health, Safety & Wellness of Learners (invest in mental health)
 - Improve K-12 to next step (technical, college, etc.)
 - Improve Community & College Mentors
 - Improve High Speed Internet access
 - Increase Number Certified Teachers
 - Provide Adequate and Equitable School Funding
 - Increase Transportation Funding
 - Improve School Infrastructure and Capital Needs
 - Universal Meals
 - Charter School Financial Transparency
 - Improve Learning Students in Foster Care, Immigrants, etc. who are frequently changing schools
 - Improve Missing Students post Covid
 - Create Commonsense Gun Laws
 - Support and Mentoring for New Teachers, Principals, Superintendents, etc.
 - MPSERS into MDE Employment (Michigan Public School Employee Retirement System)

MiMTSS: Kim St. Martin

- Intensifying Intervention Instruction
 - Dyslexia Handbook focuses on characteristics – not diagnosis
 - No set “Dyslexia” Curriculum – different teaching for different needs
 - Lots of students failing due to set curriculums
 - Appropriate instruction and intervention that is need focused not label focused

Where We Are Today: Eight Goals of Top 10 Strategic Plan: Dr. Scott Koenigsnecht

- Goal 8: Adequate & Equitable School Funding
 - Per Pupil Funding Increased to \$9,150
 - \$246 Million (increase +15.6%) for students with disabilities
- Goal 7: Teacher Shortage
 - Number of Teacher Prep Enrollment Increasing sin 2016-17
 - A little over 13,000 enrolled in 2020-21
 - Increase in budget for Early Career Retention, Grow Your Own, paying student teachers & other efforts to recruit teachers
- Goal 1: Expand Early Childhood Learning Opportunities
 - 81% Increase Funding Overall
 - 47% Increase Funded Slots for Students
 - GSRP Program for Quality Ranked #1 for last 4 years
- Goal 2: Early Literacy Achievement
 - 3rd Grade ELA – dropped post-Covid
 - Increased Budget for LETRS Training for Teachers
 - Increased Birth-5 Literacy Supports
 - Created Dyslexia Guidance
- Goal 3: Improve Health, Safety, and Wellness of Students
 - \$245 million for student mental health supports
 - \$150 million to higher mental health staff
 - \$45 million to ISDs for TRAILS program
 - \$210 million for school safety needs
 - \$150 million goes right to local school districts
- Goal 4: Secondary Learning Opportunities for All Students
 - Growth in CTE Programs since Covid dip
 - Students with Disabilities again increasing in CTE since Covid dip
 - About 4,500 in 2021-22
 - Students with Disabilities Completers in CTE increasing since Covid dip
 - About 3,600 in 2021-22
 - Growth in Early Middle College (EMC) program
 - Extreme growth for students with disabilities
- 246 in 2015-16 to 458 in 2020-21
 - Growth in meeting compliance for youth ages 16+ with an IEP
 - 93.7% in 2020

- Goal 5: Increase Percentage of Students who Graduate from High School
 - Rates are increasing consistently in 8 of last 10 years – dipped during Covid
 - Students with disabilities – slight increases in 4-yr, 5-yr, and 6-yr
 - Formed Special Education Instructional Leadership Network (SEILN)
 - Focus on inclusion and quality tier one instruction
 - Increase focus on Personal Curriculum use
 - PATH Forward Strategic Action Plan

Discussion:

During this meeting, committee members worked on reviewing final drafts of the **Section 504 Brochure** and the **IEPT- Guidelines for a Successful Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team Meeting Brochure**, both developed in June 2006. Final draft copies were sent to committee members to review and provide feedback one last time. Brochures will be sent to Sherri Boyd and the Arc Michigan Board of Directors for final approval. After being approved, the brochures will be available on the Arc Michigan website and available for committee members to pass on to their organizations and families they serve.

Emily Henderson, Governmental Affairs Consultant and Lobbyist for Arc Michigan, with McCall Hamilton, joined us for this meeting and shared a package of bills aimed at addressing mental/behavioral health. For more information, see these bills:

[SB 0027 of 2023](#)

Insurance: health insurers; equitable coverage for behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment; provide for. Amends 1956 PA 218 (MCL 500.100 - 500.8302) by adding sec. 3406z.

[SB 0028 of 2023](#)

Mental health: other; definition of restraint; expand. Amends secs. 700 & 740 of 1974 PA 258 (MCL 330.1700 & 330.1740) & repeals sec. 742 of 1974 PA 258 (MCL 330.1742).

[SB 0029 of 2023](#)

Education: attendance; excused mental health days; allow certain number. Amends 1976 PA 451 (MCL 380.1 - 380.1852) by adding sec. 1586a.

Additional Information:

[MDE-OSE Special Education Reevaluation Process - January 2023](#)

A student’s special education needs may change throughout the course of their educational career. The reevaluation process is intended and used to assess these evolving needs, as described in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The purpose of this document is to underscore reevaluation requirements as set forth in the IDEA in order to support districts as they consider the reevaluation needs of students with disabilities. (This document was shared with Education Committee in January 2023)

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Meeting dates for 2022-2023 are below. This is the standing Zoom link for each meeting.

Arc Michigan Education Committee

First Wednesday of the month, 3:30-5:00pm

2023 Dates

March 1

April 5

May 3

June 7

July 5 (as needed)

August 2 (as needed)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88262109389?pwd=eTZ0UHZZdUo1aHhMa1dtNlk4SURaZz09>

Meeting ID: 882 6210 9389

Passcode: 416253

The meeting adjourned at 4:35pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Driscoll