

The Arc Michigan Education Committee
Meeting Minutes
6/7/2023

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

Present: Michelle Driscoll, Debbie Whitford, Darlene Heard-Thomas, Emily Henderson and Maggie Kolk

Meeting minutes from May 2023 meeting were previously sent out to committee members. May Meeting minutes approved with no changes.

May SEAC Report (Submitted by Andrea Beachnau):

SEAC Notes - 6.7.23

MDE-OSE Updates – Teri Rink

- ISD Determinations due 6.23.23
 - Meets Requirements, Needs Assistance, Needs Intervention, Needs Substantive Intervention
 - 4th Year Following Same Determination with ISDs as is done federally toward states
- State Determinations due 6.23.23
- Any OSEP methodology changes will influence ISD methodology in 2024
- MDE-OSE requires 47 employees to meet general supervision needs and currently has 14 staff openings
- MDE-OSE has reference document for ISDS describing General Supervision System to better meet requirements – hope to roll out document in August
- OSEP hasn't issued new General Supervision System Guidance since 2006 – supposedly being revised and available possibly in July 2023
- MDE-OSE working on LRE monitoring activities to be reviewed by SEAC in 2023-24 and begin monitoring schools fall 2024
- Teacher Endorsement Flexibility Waivers for 2022-23 – not very many requested
 - R 390.1105 (3) – 10 waivers
 - R 340.1758 ASD – 5 waivers
 - R 340.1754 ECSE – 1 waiver
- MDE-OSE has heard that many schools just waived it without filling out waiver – noncompliant due to not applying
- Spec Ed Teacher Tuition Reimbursement Grant – must be applied by district for a position district cannot fill – teacher then can be reimbursed to be endorsed in that area

Legislative Update – Dr. Sheryl Kennedy

- School-Aid Appropriations Sub-Committees targets set once final budget (Governor's Executive Recommendation, Senate, and House Budgets) expected to be passed by 6.30.23

- **Hearings this Week:**
 - House Education HB 4671 (School Start Date) – allows before Labor Day
- House Elections HB 4569 (Voter Pre-registration for 16 year olds) – allows SOS create high school registered voter campaign prior to 18th birthday to vote after 18th birthday
- House Families Children and Seniors HB 4676-4678 (Disrupted Education (foster, juvenile, etc.)) – additional educational requirements and monitoring of children in child caring institutions
 - Currently doesn't have to align with MMC and thus not getting credits towards diploma
- Senate Education SB 359 (Collective Bargaining – Detroit) – allows community district teachers and administrators to engage in collective bargaining
- **Bills in Process**
- Passed House, waiting Senate
 - HB 4157 (Excused absence play TAPS)
 - HB 4064 (Cursive Writing)
 - HB 4125 (Sexual Assault and Expulsion) – sexual assault considered under 7 factors
 - HB 4676-4678 (Disrupted education)
- Passed Senate, waiting House Hearing
 - SB 66 (Sexual Assault Guidance to Schools)
 - SB 161/162 (Teacher/Counselor Reciprocity) – out-of-state teachers/counselors with 3 years experience to attain MI certificate
- Waiting on House Floor
 - HB 4279 (CTE Flexibility)
 - HB 4549 (Substitute Teachers) – 21 yrs. or older with high school diploma teacher except in special education classrooms
 - HB 4354-4357 (Collective Bargaining)
- **Legislation to Watch**
 - HB 4648 (Count Day) – allows count period to begin day after religious holiday should school be closed
 - SB 354 (Other Certification Tests) – out-of-state teacher certification test allowed in place of MTTC of out-of-state teachers with less than 3 years' experience seeking MI certification
 - MDE pushing back somewhat believing not all certifications are equal

Opening Pipeline of Talent into Michigan's Special Education (OPTIMISE) – Kathy Fortino & Laurie VanderPloeg

- Surveyed MAASE in 2022 – 700+ members received survey, 273 respondents
- 739 Programs with Vacancies/Not Fully Certified Total
- 409 with Vacancies/Not Fully Certified Total Special Education Services
- Significant under-reporting – actually worse

- 827 Paraeducators Vacancies Totals
- <https://optimise.education/>

MDE Updates - Dr. Scott Koenigsknecht

- 2023 SEAC Update
 - Increasing Federal Determinations
 - 2018: 59.17% (Needs Intervention) 2022: 75.00% (Needs Assistance)
 - Meets Requirements is 80%
 - Increasing Graduation Rates
 - 2018: 63% 2022: 71%
 - Exiter Rate (4-Yr, 5-Yr, and 6-Yr Cohorts included in Rate)
 - Decreasing Drop-out Rates
 - 2018: 29% 2022: 20%
 - Increasing CTE Enrollments
 - 2021-22: 11,308 Students with Disabilities (increase of 1%)
 - Increasing CTE Completers (completes entire program)
 - 2021-22: 3,644 Students with Disabilities (increase of 14%)
 - Increasing Early Middle College Enrollments (dual enrolled w/ 13th year and Associates)
 - 2021-22: 458 Students with Disabilities (increase of 86%)
 - Increasing Funding
 - Section 51g: 60 million in 2019-20, 30 million 2020-21
 - Early On: 7 million in 2019-20, 7 million 2021-22, 7.5 million 2022-23
 - Project SEARCH: 1.5 million 2021-22
 - Virtual Lessons (VR): 1.5 million 2021-22
 - 75 FTE (Full-Time Equivalent) and 28% Reimbursement: 245 million 2022-23
 - Increasing use of Personal Curriculum
 - Updated PC Guidance coming soon
 - How far can PC be used for student with an IEP – will be clarified with greater flexibility

Family Matters – Stacie Rulison

- [Family Matters \(michigan.gov\)](https://www.michigan.gov/family-matters)

Legislative updates:

Emily Henderson, Governmental Affairs Consultant and Lobbyist for Arc Michigan with McCall Hamilton, joined us for this meeting and shared a legislative update.

Emily flagged a handful of bills up in committee:

- [HB 4676](#)
- [HB 4677](#)
- [HB 4678](#)

These bills would set the precedent for education requirements to be put forth with Michigan Merit Curriculum for children in and out of foster care and homes. Student transcripts weren't following the student and schools weren't tracking them. Students trying to get a diploma would find they had no records due to movements within the foster care systems. This packet of bills would ensure the tracking of school's transcripts. MDE would then ensure the requirements of other institutions and track how foster care students are doing academically. No direct language regarding students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities or special education.

Emily reported that the MI Children's and Student Advocacy Center are spear heading these bills with sponsors Senators ANTHONY, WOJNO, GEISS, CAVANAGH, SINGH and CHANG better defining restraint and seclusion and it's uses:
<https://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2023-2024/billintroduced/Senate/pdf/2023-SIB-0028.pdf>

Emily also stated that Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has opened up requests for rules that would make special education program & services that would make state requirements in alignment with federal requirements within IDEA outlining FAPE. Committee Chair, Michelle, asked if it was known when the drafts would come out and Emily would be keeping a close watch on it. Emily stated it may take time to post the rules; however, within the next month or two there would be workgroup meetings before any drafts were produced. Emily noted that it needs to get done or Michigan loses federal funding.

The state's budget is still expected to be done by July 1. Observations are that the general fund numbers are down, people are spending less money, income tax is changing in the state and school aid fund dollars have increased. The per pupil amount has increased to over \$9000. Emily stated it is nice that school aid budget gets more money and that she is expecting bipartisan support on this one.

Also, was discussed the removal of letter grading for schools as it relates to the rating systems across the state on how schools are doing. There is legislation to change the school start dates and lots of democrats rather than republicans are supporting it.

Discussion:

Members talked about position statements: Pathway to Kindergarten, School Wide Positive Behavior Supports and Universal Design for Learning (UDL). The committee will need to get the adapted date from Sherri on the position statements that were made. Michelle stated she will send out copies of position statement documents for all to review and discuss and that she would distribute the IEP team and section 504 brochures.

Michelle announced that she has become the new Chairperson for the Arc Education Committee and announced that Debbie Whitford would be assuming the role of recording the meeting minutes.

Additional business:

The updating and developing of position statements was reviewed for the following:

- Universal Design for Learning (UDL) (2007)
- Pathways to Kindergarten (2009)
- Schoolwide Positive Behavior Supports (2010)

It was agreed that the Arc Education Committee would work on oldest statement first, UDL, then pathways and then PBIS. Michelle will send the UDL out for everyone to review and committee members can plan on discussing it at the Aug 10th committee meeting.

The committee discussed the distribution of new brochures:

- The IEP Team Meeting
- Section 504

Michelle stated that she would send out a link to the education page on Arc MI website to Michigan Alliance for Families (MAF) staff.

Committee members agreed on the new meeting day and time beginning in August - First Thursday, 10-11:30.

Next meeting is Thursday, August 10, 2023 – 10:00am-11:30am (see agenda for special zoom link).

Monthly Meeting Dates (2023-2024)

Sep 7, 2023
Oct 5, 2023
Nov 9, 2023 (Date change due to SDC)
Dec 7, 2023
Jan 11, 2024 (Date change due to winter break)
Feb 1, 2024
Mar 7, 2024
Apr 4, 2024
May 2, 2024
Jun 6, 2024
Jul 4, 2024
Aug 1, 2024

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81104962316?pwd=WFA3eVFoNC92U3JJSFZmcjVzdEd2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 811 0496 2316

Passcode: 707193

The meeting adjourned at 4:25pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Whitford