**Maine State Advisory Panel**

February 3, 2021 10:00AM-12:00PM

Department of Education

Zoom meeting

Minutes

**Present:**

Nancy Lander

Colette Sullivan

Christine Sullivan

Libby Stone-Sterling

Carrie Woodcock

Tracy Whitlock

Benjamin Jones

Connor Archer

Jim Roberts

**Public comment:** Welcoming Connor Archer and Jim Roberts!

**Department updates- Colette Sullivan:**

* Admin letter link was put out January 21st.
* Working on proposal for grant due March 9th, won’t find out results for a couple of months.
* State professional development grant using it to further develop Math4ME and PBIS.
* Department working to develop FAQ.
* Planning to form work groups with stake holders to figure out planning and tackle problems. Educational stake holders as well as parents.
* Once FAQ comes out it will be shared. <https://mainedoenews.net/2021/01/21/administrative-letter-change-in-the-ending-age-for-special-education-eligibility-effective-immediately/>

**Feedback:** Started to look at transition planning. Suggestion that a member of SAP group sit at stakeholder table.

**Tracy Whitlock- Assessment FAQS:**

* Janette Kirk put together FAQs that were shared and discussed <https://www.maine.gov/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/FAQs.pdf>
* Struggle with having baseline when assessments are changed.
* Concern for MPF this year is academically overwhelming. Concern on the drastic regression for special education kids.
* Question on how to prepare for next school year for typically developing kids? Must have a way to measure.
* Method of getting assessment data is quickly snowballing.
* FAQs brought more questions than answers. Janette Kirk will be asked to come to the next meeting for questions about FAQs to be answered.
* Important to understand any change in assessment needs to be supported. Educators that are doing preparation behind scenes important to find consistency with testing format moving forward.
* Standardized testing challenging, suggestion to find consistent ways to do assessment instead of changing would help tremendously.
* Parents and educators feeling overwhelmed especially this year.
* Would like someone from assessment team to come speak and answer questions.
* Want to make sure we understand what students’ needs are, testing small piece of that.
* Question was asked on what was the reasoning behind changes? Poor timing to change because of pandemic.

**Libby Stone-Sterling- Education Legislation:**

* Reach out to Benjamin Jones for DRME for list of bills.
* One bill being considered is changing Maine from written notice state to consent state for IEP process.
* NH and MA considered consent state. Parent signs agreement to consent.
* Second bill eliminates seclusion from school’s work language on restraint only used in emergency situations and schools work on reporting for accuracy across board.
* No date for either bill for public hearing.
* Concern for family engagement.

**Tracy Whitlock- SAP application process:**

* Different states shared applications, pulled questions from their webinar link to video. Talks about family and stakeholder engagement.
* Will share notes in future meetings.
* Discussed putting resume on application barrier for some parent’s concern. Question asked if we need that information? Just want information we need.
* Reviewing resumes is time consuming and exhausting.
* Similar questions, combining them.
* Some applications ask for references. Question asked what is the purpose of having references?
* Something commissioner is going to want for reference check, does it matter to commissioner or not? If they don’t get contacted doesn’t seem to make sense to have this on application.
* Suggestion to ask person filling out application about commitment and how many times a year they can attend meetings.

**Public comment:** Virtual conference MPF partnering with UNH to talk about in person learning and how to develop IEP plan. Joint support group encouraging parents to get medical vaccine questions and medical impulse control suicide prevention specialist break out session. This afternoon and evening and 3 days team from division of patient rehab Sarah Howard evidence-based program for young people on autism spectrum. Expanding to age 20-24 population in springtime. Maine math group having virtual conference opens doors for more teachers to be able to afford on March 13th.

Next meeting: March 17