State Advisory Panel

July 15, 2020 via Zoom conference

Meeting Minutes

Present:

Shawn Collier

Tracy Whitlock

Artulean McKenna

Erin Frazier

Gwen Sartoris

Jodie Hall

Nancy Lander

Brian Cavanaugh

Christine Sullivan

Carrie Woodcock

Paige Morse

Libby Stone-Sterling

Jennifer Fricke

**1. Open Comment**

**2. Update from MDOE, Erin Frazier**

* There was a loss of professional development recordings due to Zoom account transitions. These may not be able to be recovered but future PD will be recoded.
* Until districts reach 32 hours/week of instruction, they are still considered to be in an alternative learning schedule. This includes virtual/hybrid learning.
  + If students are returning to school, it must be equal and allow access to other peers and equal access to instruction. Equity and inclusion must be considered.
* Future expectations/guidelines will vary from region to region and area to area, in the State.
* Districts are encouraged to survey families when making decisions on re-entry.
* Directors will be surveyed on how they are planning on conducting instruction and for how many hours they plan on conducting instruction.
  + Some States have been doing 32 hours of remote or hybrid instruction.

*Open Comment:*

* Request to share the MDOE survey results with the public, as other agencies are not showing answers across the board (from both parent and district responses).
* Concerns that special education students did not feel represented in the survey given by MDOE and concerns regarding having to do the survey multiple times for each represented child.
* Parents are encouraged to speak up to their districts and give feedback, even if unsolicited by the representing district.
* Regarding graduating students – Does the DOE have any numbers on how this affected graduating students and what it looks like for transition plans?
  + No, but it is encouraged to consider going further than the age-out date and allowing students to recoup time missed in planning and transition services. This should be done on a case-by-case basis, determining if transition services and goals were able to be completed.
* How should districts determine present levels of learning for students in the fall?
  + Recommendation that every special education student is assessed based on their IEP goals. This will be a process, and not necessarily completed by the first day of school.
* SPDG (State Professional Development Grant) –
  + MDOE is working to get the SPDG this year. MDOE was last funded with this grant 3 years ago.
* Update on CDS and in person instruction –
  + Not many changes have been made to in-person recommendations. But there is no longer a wait list for their services, which have been continuously conducted remotely. Some centers are offering in-person instruction and in-person evaluations.

**2. Update on State determinations, Shawn Collier**

* The U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education gave us a determination of “meets requirements”, for the second year in a row. With respects to disproportionality, we received a score of “significant discrepancy of race or ethnicity”.
* Several indicators have improved since last year.
* The Annual Performance Report (“APR”) targets were approved to be extended.
* In February 2021, we will report out our findings on these targets. This will be a weird year for reporting, since we will not be able to use assessment scores for this process.
* APR findings will be impacted by COVID by what gets reported and how scores are determined through what is reported. Indicators are open currently and we have until August to determine what these should be.

*Open comment:*

* Positivity on seeing a second year in a row of “meeting requirements”.

**3. Online Curriculum, Tracy Whitlock**

* The online, public forum will be for Pre-K to 12, offering online asynchronistic modules.
* MDOE is creating the platform and the teachers are creating the modules, by quarter, to have a full year complete by the end of this year.

*Open comment:*

* Will there be modifications and accommodations for special education students?

Yes –

* + Speech to text
  + Enlarged text
  + Special education teachers will need to work with general education teachers on specific accommodations/modifications needed.
* Modules will be self-standing, and PD necessity will be minimal.
* Will this effect teacher employment?
  + This answer is uncertain, but that is not the goal of the Department. It is meant to be a support/aid for teachers and students.
* Will this be on the DOE website?
  + The hope would be to have a website separate from the MDOE webpage, with the ability to login and track modules, as an open source.
* SPDG –
  + MDOE is in the early writing stages of this grant.
  + We are hoping to get more professional development out to more rural areas via means of remote/virtual training.

**4. Open Comment**

* August agenda request to have information/updates on ESY services
* The Department of Labor started summer work experiences and, while smaller scaled than last year, is still going well.
* There will be a mid-August training for parents offered Disability Rights Maine and Maine Parent Federation, at a time to be determined. DRMe and MPF will be working with a pediatrician on guidance for this as well.