

Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP)

February 22, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Jill Mathews, Alison Lowenthal, Tonya Maestretti, Lisa Perry, Brian Darcy, Stephanie Hoffman, Ruth Garfield, Amy Clark, Ted Oparnico, Keith Allred, Brandy Funk, Charlie Silva, Angela Lindig, Robin Greenfield, Marni Porath, Richelle Tierney, Rebecca Maldonado

SEAP Welcome : Robin Greenfield, SEAP Chair

- Robin welcomed the group and introduced the agenda.

Announcement:

Keith Allred shared a new journal article regarding the Indicator 8, the Parent Survey, and Parent Involvement – Brenda Arnold has forwarded the article to all SEAP members.

Approval of the November 9, 2015 Meeting Minutes: Robin Greenfield, SEAP Vice-Chair

- Corrections: Remove a Duplicate of Jeff D.
- The presentation is attached to these minutes. Idaho will be adopting a new tool called CANS – Child Adolescent Needs and Strengths –
- Staff Positions – Jeff Brandt not Grant

Motion to approve by Brian Darcy and seconded by Keith Allred.

Update on Federal Laws and State Specific Information:

Dr. Charlie Silva, SDE Special Education Director

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Reauthorization

- Dr. Silva reported that the Every Child Succeeds Act (ESSA) passed December 10, 2015 – Replaces No Child Left Behind (NCLB).
- It will go into effect August 2016.
- States will have greater flexibility to meet their needs as opposed to a one size fits all model.
- Each state does need to create their own accountability system.
- In Idaho this is led by the State Board of Education.
- States are responsible for enforcing the requirements.
- Annual Yearly Progress and Highly Qualified Teachers (AYP and HQT) are no longer requirements, but will still remain and have a different focus. For instance, in Idaho there will be “effective teachers” but not everything has been defined at this point.
- The SDE Special Education Department submitted their Annual Performance Report (the required report on the 17 indicators). The SDE is waiting for feedback during the US DOE question period. One area of focus will be early childhood – preschool data. An area of

growth has been in secondary transition.

- Phase 2 of the SSIP will be due April 1, 2016, and it is going very well.
- The IDEA Part B State Application must be posted by Wednesday, February 24, 2016. It will be open for public comment for 30 days and remain posted for an additional 30 days.
- Idaho's application will fund approximately 91% directly to school districts throughout the state. The remaining 9% funds the work at the SDE and technical assistance programs.
- SDE is surveying early childhood programs to determine the professional development needs in the next year.

Idaho State Department of Education – Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) audit from 2012 and Monitoring of Local Education Agencies (LEA's)

- Superintendent Ybarra proposed her budget. \$300,000 will be set aside for a rural education center as a pilot program in Region 1 where districts will come together to pool resources for rural education. The Legislature will need to vote on this during the session.
- She has also proposed math coaches modeled after the success of the literacy coaches.
- Additionally, she has proposed a change to the funding formula for the first time since the 1990's, which currently uses a flat 5% for special education funding. It is unlikely to go anywhere this year as the Legislature believes there needs to be further discussion to work out the formula details, although everyone is in agreement that the formula does need to be changed and that special education is highly unfunded.
- The Comprehensive Literacy Plan (Idaho Reading Indicators) hasn't been looked at in a number of years, so a plan is to review that as well as increase counselors for ensuring college and career readiness.
- The State Strategic Plan is in development with full intent to drive all education efforts.
- Special Education aligns with the plan which has three goals:
 - Goal 1: All students persevere in life and are ready for college and career.
 - Strategy: Implement multiple pathways toward graduation.
 - Goal 2: All education stakeholders in Idaho are mutually responsible for accountability and student progress.
 - Goal 3: Idaho attracts and retains great teachers and leaders
 - Strategy: Look at models of incentives for special education teachers – possibly pilot a program where districts have very hard to fill positions. The district can receive funds to offer a stipend to attract someone for the position.

Update on SDE Website:

Lily Robb – Idaho State Department of Education

- Lily provided a visual walkthrough of the improvements to the website that now includes a button for Special Education on the front page.

- All of the links have changed in Special Education.
- All of the new pages have the same four tabs – Files, FAQs, Training, and Links.

Update on Dispute Resolution:

Dr. Melanie Reese, Dispute Resolution Coordinator – Idaho State Department of Education

- Melanie gave an overview of the Dispute Resolution (DR) office and process in Idaho.
- There are 20 contractors throughout the state; 18 are facilitators; 3 are hearing officers.
- There are four DR processes:
 - Facilitation, Mediation, Complaint Investigation, and Due Process Hearings.
- Facilitation is not a requirement – Idaho was one of the first states to use this method.
- Idaho was selected as one of six states to participate in a workgroup with CADRE.
- Lessons Learned: The evaluation process of the Idaho DR program could be improved
- Statistics on DR processes were shared in a graphic representation.
- *A request was made by SEAP that the data be placed on the SDE website.*
- The evaluation process was changed by using Survey Gizmo which allows greater filtering capabilities and information from questions regarding the facilitator, the facilitation process, and a comment section. There is also a survey for the facilitator to evaluate themselves, the process, and the dispute resolution office.
- There has been a 30% return rate of the surveys, and the percentage is increasing.
- *It was suggested that SEAP consider looking into Survey Gizmo as a tool for the Parent Survey.*

Review SEAP By-Laws:

Dr. Robin Greenfield - SEAP

- The Executive Committee met several times between November and February to draft a revised set of by-laws for SEAP to review.
- The Executive Committee compared Idaho's by-laws to those of SEAP's in several other states.
- The draft revisions included improved organization and structure of the document. Several items that were redundant or irrelevant were removed.
- The committee presented the draft by-laws to SEAP and reviewed the particular changes.
- New recommendations were made to the draft by-laws which will be incorporated. It was recommended that the SEAP wait until the next meeting to vote to approve the by-laws once everyone has a copy of the final draft.

SEAP Priorities:

Priority 1: Assist the Department with SSIP

- Angela, Robin, Brandy, Ruth, and Jenn met to discuss this year's priorities.

- Angela, Robin, and Brandy met with Deborah Haley-Hughes to discuss the SSIP and how a SEAP workgroup will assist with sharing information with families.
- *The subcommittee had a question about how professional development opportunities will include literacy, UDL and inclusion.*
- Charlie shared that there will be a two-day conference in Boise in June (June 6-7 tentatively) with teachers on day-one, and then SSIP pilot teachers on day-two. The conference will be replicated in the northern and eastern regions of the state. The keynote is Sharon Vaughn from the University of Texas. There will be a strand on UDL with Janice Carson.
- Toni Brinegar at the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities is working a UDL conference in the fall with IHE's.
- The goal with SESTA is that every June there will be a reading conference, and that every August there will be a behavior conference. These conferences will be held around the State.
- The Title 1 conference takes place every other year. Special Education may be participating in this conference in April 2017.

Priority 2: Assist the Department with Exploring Alternate Paths Toward Graduation

- A SEAP workgroup will work on this priority.

Professional Development Presentations:

Ted Oparnico: Idaho Department of Correction

Ted presented a highly informative history of the Department of Corrections and students with disabilities. He discussed student identification, current practices for eligible students, explanation of services, and current needs. A copy of his .ppt presentation was given to SEAP members.

Stephanie Hoffman: Division of Behavioral Health – Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

Stephanie gave an overview of the Division of Behavioral Health with a walkthrough of the Department's website.

She discussed how children who receive children's mental health services and who have Medicaid have access to a case manager.

She also shared information regarding the regional mental boards that work on policy issues for people with behavioral health disorders including substance use disorders.

Information regarding the new Parent Support Specialists and training through the Idaho Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health was also shared.

Update State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP): Deborah Haley-Hughes, Results Driven Accountability Coordinator

- Idaho has approximately five weeks to submit their plan to OSEP.
- Original Target Districts:
 - Lewiston, Vallivue, and Twin Falls – Only account for about 8% of students with disabilities.
- Added Target Districts:
 - Sugar-Salem, Bonneville, Kuna, and Minidoka which now accounts for about 17%.
- Alayna Gee is the new SPDG (State Professional Development Grant) that is currently working on the RTI/MTSS systems.
- The SDE is in year four of a five-year grant and is writing now for the next grant cycle.
- The new SPDG will align with the SSIP, and therefore, will include some of the districts that have already been part of the RTI project (Kuna and Minidoka).
- Draft delivery model: Align with State Personnel Development Grant
 - 1: 3-year professional development and support plan
 - 2: Face-to-face training September, January, and May
 - 3: Ongoing support from RDA, MTSS, and SESTA
 - 4: Focus on instructional and systems improvements
- Districts are meeting in March to discuss strategies for instruction.
- Evidence-based practices (EBP's) for inclusive education.
- Teachers were surveyed about implementation of EBP's in their classrooms – more than half rated themselves as having no experience or beginner.
- Teachers are elementary special educators.
- 73% of teachers agree that they want more professional development.
- Identify partnerships.
- Get stakeholder input – including SEAP and parents.
- How will parents get information; gather ideas; communication plans; PTA presentations; after school programs; community partnerships; what do parents WANT to know?

Contact: Deborah Haley-Hughes, Statewide Results Driven Accountability Coordinator, Center for School Improvement and Policy Studies, Idaho SESTA, 208-426-1084, deborahhaley-hughes@boisestate.edu, www.IdahoSESTA.org 1910 University Drive, Boise, ID 83725-1740

SEAP Priorities Workgroups

Group 1: Pathways to Graduation:

- Requires a change in Idaho Code – the Administration will need to determine if they are willing to go through that process.
- The current language in code was developed in 2000 and included information from DRI, the DD Council, IPUL and other advocacy groups.

- It is important to explore in the new culture and with new directives of multiple pathways to graduation coming out of the ESSA.
- Who will benefit or would there be obstacles?

Next Steps:

Form a Subgroup to Report Out at May Meeting:

- Research other states
- Talk with PTE about their badging system

Group 2: Assist the Department with the SSIP

- Brainstorm to Identify Community Partners
 - After school programs
 - Idaho STARS
 - Libraries
 - IHE's
 - Care Coordinators in the Pediatric Patient Centered Medical Home
 - Pediatricians to provide home activities and strategies
 - Head Start and Early Head Start
 - United Way
 - Idaho Parents Unlimited
 - Families Together
 - Parent Support Groups
- Brainstorm Possible Activities to Promote Awareness
- Create a Social Media Campaign #SSIP #FourthGradeReading #SomethingCatchierThanThis
- Present at Parent Nights at the School
- Mailer on a quarterly basis
- PTA presentations
- School newsletter
- School Website
- Email Blasts
- Use Electronic IEPs – Information could be included on the portal
- Book Fairs
- Book Stores
- Seven Cares – Television News Type of Announcements for Nonprofits
- Statisticks Type Videos (YouTube the Two Jamies – Statisticks)
- Presentations to Therapists – SLP's, OT's, PT's

Next Steps:

Send Information to Deborah Haley-Hughes

Provide her feedback at the May meeting

Next Meeting

- May 2, 2016
 - Agenda Items
 - APR Feedback
 - State Incentives for Special Ed Staff Shortages
 - Workgroup Updates
 - Deb – SSIP overview
 - Vote on the By-laws
 - Elections
 - Parent Survey Changes and Distribution – Talk to Susan at TAESE
 - Agency/Individual Presentations
 - Rebecca Maldonado – Autism month schoolwide efforts
 - Brian Darcy – IESDB

Meeting Adjournment

Motion to adjourn – by Lisa Perry; Seconded by Tonya Maestretti.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:31 p.m.