

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL MINUTES
Alabama Association of School Boards
Montgomery, AL
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
April 12, 2023

IN PERSON:

- Tranesia Brown, Valencia Curry, Kristen Dial, Pamela Fossett, Shakela Johnson-Ford, Jason Martin, Hank Poore, Kathy Poore, Graham Sisson, Shana Smith

WEBEX:

- Tara Cook, LeAnna Feely, Tasha Harrison- Betts, Jassetta Manning-Jones, Carin Mayo, Temeyra McElrath, Jessica Pelt, Lisa Powell, Alyssa Spivey

NOT PRESENT:

- Lisa Balazs, Volante` Blackmon, Felicia Carswell, Lisa Holley Clayton, Beth Joseph, Jean Marzullo, Tiffany Moore, Michelle Wood

OTHERS PRESENT:

- Alabama State Department of Education-Special Education Services (ALSDE-SES) Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) representatives–DaLee Chambers, Ashley Cawley, Beth Herndon, Tiffany C. Moore

The meeting was called to order by Chair Graham Sisson. Pamela Fossett motioned to approve January 19, 2023, meeting minutes; Valencia Curry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- The purpose of the meeting and duties of the panel were reviewed by Chair Sisson.
- The ALSDE Data Team (Melissa Card and Kemeche Green) presented on the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR). Dr. Card gave an overview and reviewed the indicators that are included in the report. Dr. Green spoke about slippage.
- Erika Richburg, the ALSDE-SES Fiscal Team administrator, provided a thorough presentation on the IDEA Part B Grant Application and the request for public comment. Dr. Richburg showed attendees where the information could be found on the ALSDE-SES section of the website. Dr. Chambers discussed applying for funds and the Part B application. She thoroughly described each category on the budget and shared budget allocations.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- A public comment was received at the ALSDE-SES via mail by an anonymous teacher and was read aloud by Dr. Cawley. The teacher shared his/her concern about the relevance and appropriateness of Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program (ACAP) testing in her classroom.
- Dr. Chambers provided a response explaining the legal requirements of the ACAP for students with moderate to severe disabilities.

SES DIRECTOR'S REPORT: DaLee Chambers

- Dr. Chambers gave an update on old business. She discussed workload vs. caseload, a topic of concern at a previous SEAP meeting. The ALSDE has done research in this area and is continuing to gather information.
- An overview of the temporary certificate program (T-SEC) was shared. Between 100-200 individuals are currently participating in the program. Concerns about students being taught by teachers without

a temporary certificate who do not pass the Praxis were discussed. No indication right now that compensatory education is needed. The State is monitoring module completion.

- Dr. Chambers discussed the State Personnel Development grant.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Ashley Cawley

- In the absence of Lisa Balazs, Membership Committee Chair, Dr. Cawley gave a membership committee update and discussed the new member applications received, the application review process, and new member recommendations to the SEAP were presented.
- Dr. Cawley also shared that work sessions for all committees will be scheduled for late May or early June. Summer is a time of planning for the panel to prepare for the upcoming year.

OLD BUSINESS: Ashley Cawley

- Hands and Voices: Dr. Cawley summarized the concerns of Hands and Voices shared at a previous SEAP meeting and in a follow-up meeting with ALSDE-SES. The Hands and Voices Board wants to ensure that students who are deaf or hard of hearing (DHH) are correctly identified and receive the appropriate services through their IEP. Hands and Voices wants to make sure individualized services for students who are deaf or hard of hearing, identified in the IEP, are implemented across the school setting, and all needs of the students have been identified and addressed (i.e. students who are deaf or hard of hearing and also have a secondary disability). ALSDE-SES is forming a focus group to review these recommendations.

NEW BUSINESS: Graham Sisson/Ashley Cawley

- Travel Reimbursement (STAARS) – A reminder that SEAP members must register in STAARS to submit requests for travel cost reimbursement.
- Dr. Cawley reminded the panel that the SEAP will provide registration and Per Diem reimbursement to panel members who would like to attend the MEGA State Education Conference- July 17-21, 2023. Dr. Cawley provided a brief description of the Per Diem reimbursement regulations. Shana Smith, panel member, asked if the Per Diem regulations could be resent to panel members in writing. Dr. Cawley agreed to send that to members by the end of the week.
- Farewell to members whose term is ending: Dr. Lisa Holley-Clayton, Dr. Shakela Johnson-Ford, Jasetta Manning-Jones, Jason Martin, Michelle Wood,
- Dr. Cawley shared an accolade for SEAP member Lisa Balazs' daughter, Kari, who recently spoke at the United Nations on World Down Syndrome Day. Copies of one article shared by local media were provided to all panel members and attendees at the meeting. A link to a recording of Kari speaking at the event was provided to panel members prior to the meeting.

Graham Sisson asked for any questions or comments from the panel. There were no questions or comments.

Chair Sisson adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

NEXT MEETING:

Jefferson County School Board
Birmingham, AL
June 29, 2023
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Birmingham, AL