

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
9 a.m. – Noon
August 15, 2024

PRESENT – Kameron Carden, Rebecca Carroll, Allie Cunningham, Jason Fisher, Tasha Harrison-Betts, Shanquail Horton, Evandra Jackson, Holly Knott, Jean Marzullo, Ashley McLeroy, Tiffany Moore, Jessica Pelt, Lisa Powell, Kate Simmons, Sisson Graham, Katie Stuart, Richard Templeton, Shenika Weatherly

NOT PRESENT – Lisa Balazs, Tranesia Brown, Valencia Curry, LeAnna Feely, Jane Lamb, Carin Mayo, Keren McElvy, Hank Poore, Kathy Poore, LaDonna Rudolph, Shana Smith

OTHERS PRESENT

- Alabama State Department of Education, Special Education Services (ALSDE, SES) Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) Representatives – DaLee Chambers, Ashley Perry, Beth Herndon, Latasha Kendrick
- ALSDE, SES Staff – Melissa Card, Robert Dunn, Kemeche Green, Bernice Rush-Harrison
- Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind Interpreters - Beverly Bownds, Sydni Sikes

Chair Graham Sisson called the meeting to order. Lisa Powell motioned to approve the April 23, 2024, meeting minutes; Kate Simmons seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Sisson conducted roll call and gave an overview of the advisory panel's purpose and duties.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES TEMPORARY SPECIAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION:

Technical Assistance Team Member, Elizabeth Greene, presented on the Temporary Special Education Certificate (TSEC). The presentation included an overview of the TSEC, year-two updates, and the number of participants and modules completed.

ALSDE, SES DIRECTOR'S REPORT: (DaLee Chambers)

Dr. Chambers provided updates on the following:

- 2024 Alabama Achieves Strategic Plan
- Academic Growth and Achievements
- *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) Part B Determinations
 - Alabama's current determination status
 - How state determinations are made
 - Trend for Alabama determination compared to other states
 - National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

Dr. Chambers ended her report by expressing gratitude to the advisory panel for their support and appreciation for helping to set state targets.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Five written public comments were received by email or letter at the ALSDE, SES. Ashley Perry read the comments aloud during the meeting.

BREAK

PUBLIC COMMENT continued

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP (Ashley Perry represented Committee Chair: Lisa Balazs)

- A new candidate was presented to the board and voted on.
 - Danielle Sylvester: parent stakeholder
 - Motion made by Lisa Powell; Seconded by Katie Stuart; Candidate was unanimously voted in
- New members welcomed.
 - Jason Fisher: Parent
 - Dr. Richard Templeton: Special Education Coordinator
 - Holly Knott: Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS) Early Intervention
- Current vacancies: Parents of children with disabilities or individuals with disabilities.
- The SEAP is encouraged to help with recruitment.

BYLAWS (Graham Sission represented Committee Chair: Carin Mayo)

The Bylaws were updated in the summer of 2023. The Bylaws committee members and any members of the panel were asked to review the Bylaws and advise Chair Carin Mayo by August 30, 2024, of identified needs for revision or if there are requests.

STAKEHOLDER AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT (Committee Chair: Katie Stuart)

- No report for this meeting.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND DATA (Committee Chair: Kameron Carden)

- No report for this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- No old business discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

- Dr. Perry gave an overview of what the annual report encompasses; The report is currently in the review and revision stage.

PANEL MEMBER or STAKEHOLDER NEWS

- The First Biennial State Transition Conference will be held March 3-5, 2025, in Auburn, AL.
- Advisory panel member Ashley McLeroy presented on Assistive Technology Updates.
 - Accessing Potential Through Assistive Technology (APTAT)/ALSDE SES Collaborations
 - Assistive Technology Training Modules
 - Assistive Technology Conference October 1-2, in Birmingham, AL

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL:

No additional questions or comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM.

NEXT MEETING:

TBD