

State Advisory Panel

Minutes

June 12, 2024

Present

Signe Lynch, Carrie Woodcock, Libby Stone-Sterling, Tracy Whitlock, Jim Roberts, Christine Sullivan, Holly Day, Susan Hogan, Sarah Wilkinson (presenting) and Michael Dixon (public)

Public Comment

- The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) will be meeting with the non-department members of the SAP during the July 10th meeting as preparation for their regularly scheduled monitoring visit in September. The non-department committee members received a copy of the discussion prompts provided by OSEP.

Sarah Wilkinson

- Dr. Wilkinson, USM assistant professor, shared the preliminary results of a statewide educator, administrator, and ed tech behavior survey that she conducted in collaboration with Dr. Gretchen Scheible from the University of Kansas.
- Created a survey for educators across Maine and launched that in Spring 2024 and have received approximately 4,000 responses.
- In the survey, participants were provided with 3 different types of behaviors. Disruptive, Severe (safety concern), Interruptions (able to get student back on track without escalation.) to consider along with the types of support available (preventative, during behavioral incident, and after incident.)
- Also listed on the survey was the perception of effectiveness of these supports and teacher's perceptions of what was contributing to behaviors.
- A burnout inventory to gauge wellness was also included. Approximately 2400 educators responded to the first survey and were equally distributed between ages K-12 grade levels and 1800 ed techs responded
- The estimate of general ed students vs special ed students for behaviors seem to be evenly dispersed.
- Last year Maine PBIS (an OSSIE initiative) led behavior training for ed techs across state. The training focused on basic classroom strategies, engagement techniques, de-escalation, inclusion strategies, etc. Dr. Wilkinson also has data for this opportunity.

- Dr. Wilkinson and her colleague are exploring grant options as well as next steps in focus groups and will be sharing the data and findings in the future with the commissioner's office and through their work with MEPRI, the state legislature.

Tracy Whitlock- Department Updates

- May 30th we had our first annual youth transition summit at Central Maine community college. Over 150 students and 50 educators were in attendance.
- Students had the opportunity to explore different career clusters. Experience what its like working on food trucks, yoga, massage organization, music, solar company, animal care, etc. Engaged in activities then completed a passport to what they found interesting, and teachers could use for transition plans.
- Students also engaged in conversations around voting, resume writing, health, and self-advocacy. Conversations with businesses were thoughtful as they considered accommodations for their activities and in how to employ and support individuals with disabilities.
- The goal is to help local SAUs establish relationships with businesses and communities for job shadowing, working with DOL and VR, encouraging relationships for ELO, a variety of opportunities for young adults as so many students face a cliff after they leave high school.

Carrie Woodcock- Public Comment/Legislative Updates

- Public comment concerning situations with Mainecare and how to support schools with billing. MaineCare Bill:
https://legislature.maine.gov/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?LD=1775&snum=130
- Signe Lynch, the new McKinney Vento representative, shared that the department is running another year of pilot program preventing student homelessness allocating new funds to all districts that choose to use this funding up to \$750 per student. This can be used for a bill, eviction notice, rent, etc.) very flexible. Opportunity is open until the next academic year.