

PASE Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2024

Members Present: Jodi Bajko, Heather Bright, Amanda Dill, Katie Foote, Kassie Franklin, Marie Griffee, Aryn Manni, Maria Mora Bowen, Renae Port, Karen Schwedler, Jane Weatherford

Guests: Tyler Betterly, Daniel Brant, Maria Buzzlam, Caroline Cannon, Esmina Hamzagic, Rukshana Ilahi, Erica Jansma, Stephanie Malski. Sarah Milbratz, Toni Moore, Laura Muma, Erin Purdy, Beth Walla

Excused: Jennifer Craig, Heather Kalafut, Lindsay Kloeckner, Nate Stein

I. Welcome and Introductions

Jen Gard: Parent and professional connection

Administration in Attendance:

Kentwood - SPED Director (along with GVSU Graduating Social Worker)

East Grand Rapids - Director of Student Services

Forest Hills - Director of Student Services

Comstock Park - SPED Director

GRPS - Interim Director of SPED and Assistant Director

Michigan Alliance for Families Representative

II. Approve Minutes from April 15, 2024

Maria Mora-Bowen made motion to approve the minutes and seconded by Jodi Bajko

III. Purpose of PASE

Reviewed mission

Set purpose for meeting

IV. Kent ISD Strategic Planning Goals for the Year

- Kirsten Myers - Speaking on Supplemental Aids and Services/LRE in February meeting
 - -Address PC, FAPE, LRE, De-escalation (CPI) - Ukeru, Parent Engagement in IEP, and Transitions
- Social Security/Disability - Upcoming
- Michigan Department of Education - Upcoming - Family Matters, creating independence across all ages

V. PASE Priorities Brainstorming for 2024-2025 School Year

- Ratios for Programs Discussed: Max number of students for CI/EI programs
 - EI - No more than 10
 - CI - 30 with support (Para/staff), in practice is actually 12-15 in practice, but the cap of 30 is generally for the post-secondary level
 - Discussed MARSE law mandates and that ISD/county level may vary and have own set of guidelines, instituting waivers to make changes on local level (still adhering to state law minimums/maximums, but can change according to own localities
 - Specific numbers are available on KISD website, and Jen Gard will provide specific link to these ratios
- Guardianship, State ID = Needs for post-secondary options
 - What is the protocol?
 - Develop a checklist/order to support transitions/planning

- Discussed community support options: ARC, Hope Network, MI Rehabilitation Services
- Brought attention to NEW Transition Manual
- Admin representatives urged parents who know they are on non-diploma track to invite community resources to transition planning IEP - State mandated by the age of 16, but many districts implement transition planning at age of 14
- ISD Employs Transition Coordinator/Coach as do some districts
- Social opportunities for the disabled
 - Extra curricular, already existing in school, existing in community, how to support this in the IEP (have support for specific extracurriculars)
 - Agencies that have lists: Helen DeVos, Disability Advocates of Kent County, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Families with Special Needs Connect (Facebook parent support group)
- Parent Share Resources
- Behavior Supports - What does it look like (MTSS, PBIS etc.) - What is the UDL and supports already in place for behavior across school/extracurriculars
- Communication Flow Chart for districts - If...Then... who to go to with questions/concerns
- Center Based (Lincoln etc.) - Placement, resident district representation, clarify this process, encouraged for parents to invite resident district representative if desired
- ISD/District Approach for Peer to Peer/Inclusion - What is the ISD pushing regarding inclusion? How is staff being supported, especially general education teachers as inclusion pushes in more and more

VI. Parent Engagement Opportunities/Resources Update

1. Parent Pulse
2. ISD Video series - Early Childhood and Post Secondary (4 areas)
3. Community Agencies - Centralize Information
4. Spring Documentary?
5. Parent Share - Panel? Resources?
6. Short 2-3 min videos to address questions - Ex: IEP questions ISD page

VII. Special Education Updates

- MDE Parent Resource Page

VIII. Parent Presentation: Beth Walla

- Spoke to empower parents to speak up if REED or assessment doesn't capture the true picture of the whole child. Encouraged to actively participate in rewriting/discussing the way verbiage is stated in assessment in order to still honor the child as a whole, while still addressing the problematic behavior/concern.
- Documents can still be amended and are not fully finalized until signed and the meeting is officially ended, can still add things as needed during the meeting

IX. Public Comment and Closing

Next meeting is November 25 and will be virtual via Zoom.