
MCASE Region IV Meeting Notes - March 4, 2021

1 message

Jenny Malloy <jmalloy@parkcoop.k12.mt.us> Sun, Mar 7, 2021 at 11:57 AM
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Region IV MCASE Meeting

March 4, 2021 at 9:30 AM

Participants: Michelle Halberg, Dan Laughlin, Jenny Malloy, Sara Novak, Sara Jones, Juliana Robinson, Jessica West-DeJarnatt, Sean Maharg, Will Dickerson, Kim McCauley, Dede Frothingham, Jen Cline

AGENDA:

1. Legislative update on bills, ESSER II and ESSER III funding (Sara Novak)
 - a. MCEC/MCASE Joint Virtual Conference is April 15th! Registration is up on the MCASE Conference Page: <https://www.sammt.org/mcase-conferences-and-conventions>
 - b. Proposal from OPI and IMPACT (sp??) - came together and proposed a joint proposal. Email from Kirk shared with staffers. MCASE working with Kirk behind the scenes. Think it will pass.
 - c. HB 46-passed by majority in the House. Appropriations onboard. On to the Senate. Kicks in 2023-fiscal notes that will be picked apart. Get it out of the Governor's budget so it is not an annual review. Will be coming out of OPI distribution. Other finding budgets are different.
 - d. Not sure what Appropriations will do with the money.
 - e. Other Bills-passed the good ones, a couple of sketchy and
 - f. 19 year old bill-not funding for all 19 year old-only for the more severe-bridge btw, school and DD services. Local decision making for these specific students. School Board expanding local control. Allocation is fairly small-not expecting many qualifying for these funds.
 - g. Voucher Bills increase from 150,00 to \$250, 000. Districts cannot just waive their obligation to offer FAPE. Fed law supersedes State law. Passed it anyway. Hope the bills die in translation
 - h. HB 329-not a call to action. Kirk is speaking to sped directors about why they work with sped as these are out of state folks. Kirk said to keep the pressure on by writing Representatives about why it is bad for MT, esp. rural schools. Too much being put in front of them with little time to read and digest. Representatives are asking Sara N. about what the information means. Representatives do see the letters.
 - i. 100s of Bills last week-Had to take action on 126 bills in 2 days. We have made some good wins! Sara N. is available to answer our questions. Thanks Sara and Michelle!!
 - j. Some are making deals behind the scenes. Governor is addressing this. Keep writing your Representatives.

- k. Privatization-rural schools do everything they can to keep doors open. Rude response from Representative. How can public schools take advantage of this? Had no response. It is on record she asked. Get em' Sara!
2. Increase in overdue IEPs? (Dan)
 - a. 19 out of 20 IEPs are overdue when they transfer in. Going to be monitored in the Fall.
 - b. Dale Kimmit is leaving and there is a new crew for Audits
 - c. Update from Jen Cline: do not know who is stepping in yet. Do not think it will be any current monitors. Trying to get the job posted. Would love to see someone in the field come work with OPI. Do your best! OPI has to follow the process. Virtual now as travel monitoring is not allowed right now.
 - d. Jenny shared she is seeing this across the board as she also monitors for OPI. We are all doing our best! Monitoring is a support network.
 - e. Getting signatures is hard. Some districts are asking parents to respond to the email with the documents and state they approve the IEP or participated in the ER-print and staple to the ER or IEP. Some are using DocuSign.
 3. Gathering info on who is retiring so we can honor them.
 - a. Dale Kimmit
 - b. [Shelley Dempsey](#)
 - c. Check with John Gorton as he is mentioning but has not committed to it yet.
 4. Overall numbers of Sped students in the coop's and/or districts (Dan)
 - a. Dan-20 student over what was projected. Maybe cost of living in the other areas?
 - b. Park County-nowhere to live so people are leaving.
 - c. Bozeman-growing weekly. Homeless numbers are up in Bozeman
 - d. Sara N. growing-sped numbers continuing to rise
 5. Dissenting Reports (Dede) from staff
 - a. Sara J. has only seen 1 from a parent in 10 years
 - b. Will-has had 1-appreciate good robust conversation in a meeting. Gave 24 hours.
 - c. Julianna-1 from a staff a couple years ago from gen ed teacher-go over checklist and reference assessment info-factual info. Gave a week to submit a dissenting report.
 - d. Jenny-maybe 3 from school psychs.
 - e. Jen-no specific process. Let the person write up the report and repair relationships. Do what works in your situation. Have the dissenting conversations in the meeting. Give a deadline-OSEP guidance as a reasonable timeline is 10 days.
 - f. Reasonable time frame? 1 week. Federal timeline 5-7 days. PWN is still open and the process is not finished until this is completed.
 6. Three year re evals for private school/homeschool
 - a. Bozeman-Sara J.-having school psych call the family and discuss the need. Document the call and decision in the Contact Log.
 - b. Jen-OSEP guidance-Yes. Child find is the same with a student enrolled. If eval is not necessary-document. Reeval should be a discussion and determination on an individual basis. Still included in the count regardless if reevaluated. Have to offer a reevaluation every 3 years. Private School Plan offered. The district where the private school is in, is responsible for the evaluation.
 - c. Private School-do they have to maintain a Cum file with birth certificate and immunizations? Contact Ann Rainy @ OPI
 - d. Michelle is doing the re evaluations every 3 years
 - e. Bozeman: Will-private school in another district's attendance area-worked with family
 7. What are districts doing to help staff cope or help with mental health/higher levels of frustration?
 - a. Park County- Weekday take home meals county wide, yoga for students and staff,

- b. Bozeman-2 days of prep-weekly agenda w/Admin who is at a higher level of stress
 - c. Meet with staff and partner completing tasks-IEPs, data, BIPs, make calls, etc.
 - d. Encourage staff to set work time boundaries.
 - e. Recognize if you need to sleep for 15 hours, do it.
 - f. Work from home esp. in rural schools with all the driving.
 - g. Seeing increase in drinking, divorce, personal turmoil, mental health
 - h. Be human!
 - i. Continue with FFCRA-need to be out due to child care, overwhelmed, get a sub-take the day
 - j. Respect teacher set aside prep time.
 - k. Take care of yourself too!!
8. Bal-a-vis-x Training (Michelle)
- a. <https://www.bal-a-vis-x.com/>
 - b. OTs, teachers,
9. Jody Bartz (Jenny)
- a. Not able to attend our meeting. She will resign from her position at MSU in June. Reach out to her and share appreciation for all of her work to streamline sped teacher program through MSU as well as MSU-B. Do we know what the recruiting/hiring process will be? Michelle suggested MCASE write a letter to MSU.
10. 2021-2022 Recruitment Needs:
- a. Park County Coop-
 - i. 7-12 Sped Teacher
 - ii. Coop Clerk (12-15 hours per week)
 - iii. Sped Para in Wilsall
 - b. Belgrade
 - i. Sign Language Interpreter
 - ii. Significant Needs Teacher MS
 - iii. Full Time Sped Teacher HS
 - c. Michelle
 - i. West K12 Sped Teacher
 - d. Michelle has an OT looking in this area
 - e. Manhattan
 - i. OT and PT
 - f. Sara N.
 - i. SLP
 - g. Anaconda
 - i. Sped Teacher
 - h. Jenny is encouraging the MSU students she supervises to network. Jenny is helping her teachers network. Sara J. and Jenny will be doing mock interviews. Jenny is also encouraging other teacher supervisors to help the new teachers network.
 - i. Bozeman
 - i. Middle School Life Skills Sped Teacher
 - ii. Middle School Day Treatment Sped Teacher
 - iii. Sped Paras
 - iv. Possible 1 year Sped Elem Teacher
 - v. Speech?? OT??

Next Meeting: April 29th at 9:30

