

Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP)

February 5, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Membership of the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP)

Member	Representation	Att'd	Member	Representation	Att'd
Sara Bennett	Parent	A	Angela Mascall	Private School	P
Theresa Boyer	Parent	P	Bryan Maughan	Parent	P
Barbara Broyles	Higher Education- University of Idaho	P	Lisa McElroy	Parent	A
Janeth Calderon	Parent	P	Cindy Orr	Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections	P
Nycole Crowe	Parent	P	Valerie Player	Parent	P
Brian Darcy	Program Administrator State Education	P	Kelley Phipps	Parent	P
Katie Flores	Parent, Chair	P	Heather Ramsdell	Higher Education – Idaho State University	
Malia Hollowell	SPED Teacher	P	Emily Sommer	State Department of Education – McKinney-Vento/Homeless Coordinator	A
Chynna Hirasaki	Idaho Department of Education, Special Education Director	P	Rachel Vachon	LEA School Psychologist	P
Jennifer Johnson	Parent	P	Joey Ward	Idaho Department of Corrections	P
Eric Lichte	Charter School	P	Kayla Whitehead	Idaho Department of H&W	P
Melissa Vian	Parent & IPUL	P	Robin Zikmund	Parent	A
Caleb Tibbetts	Vocational Rehabilitation	P			A
Jill Mathews	State Department of Education – Family and Community Engagement	P			

Guests

Member	Representation	Att'd	Member	Representation	Att'd
Randi Cole	IDE	P	Lexie Pease	IDE	P
Shannon Dunstan	IDE	P	Maddie Rice	IDE	P
Alisa Fewkes	IDE	P	Kimberli Shaner	IDE	P
Kate Hill	IDE	P	Debi Smith	IDE	P
Lisa Pofelski- Rosa	IDE	P	Karren Streagle	IDE	P

IDE = Idaho Department of Education

IPUL = Idaho Parents Unlimited

P = Present

A = Absent

#	Topic	Topic Owner(s)	Discussion	Next Steps
1	Welcome & Call to Order	<i>Katie Flores</i>	Meeting called to order	
2	Approval of November 13, 2023 Minutes	<i>Katie Flores</i>	Motion: Eric Lichte Second: Brian Darcy All in favor: Unanimous	
3	“Getting to Know You” Highlighting New Members	<i>Karren Streagle</i>	<i>Valerie is official this meeting</i> <i>Caleb--VR</i> <i>Janeth—Parent, Caldwell</i> <i>Nicole—Parent/Advocate, Rigby</i> <i>Kelly—Parent, Fruitland</i> <i>Maddie—AA Sped Dept</i> <i>Kate—Data Coord, Sped Dept</i> <i>New members assigned to mini-groups</i>	
4	November Meeting Follow-Up	<i>Kimberli Shaner, Chynna Hirasaki</i>	<i>DR Trifold Update:</i> <i>Kimberli introduced the finalized trifold. Thank you for all the input. It will be given to IPUL to provide to parents. If members want more, they can ask Kimberli.</i>	<i>If there are any questions on the DR trifold or anyone needs more copies, please contact Kimberli.</i>
5	Mini-Group Work: Outcomes, Transitions, Funding, Support and Monitoring	SDE Facilitators	<i>See individual notes</i>	
6	Mini-Group Work: Whole Group Share-Out	Chynna Hirasaki	<i>Outcomes: Melissa shared discussion about alternate assessment including accommodations available to students.</i> <i>Transitions: Joey summarized the activity on creating guidance/information for students/parents how to recreate the planning doc for parents/students, other agencies.</i> <i>Support and Monitoring: Kimberli discussed the GSFR annual review and its impact on other reports. The OSEP finding is expected to influence the GSFR process. DR summarized the hot topics including behavior, manifest det, FBA/BIPs, etc. There will be training on the same topics due to the DR findings. There has been an increase in the number of DR complaints, which is a</i>	

			<p>nationwide trend. IPUL has observed similar trends.</p> <p><i>Fiscal:</i> Lisa discussed a project on which they provided input. It involves a high-cost fund and how to obtain and use those funds. The directors are concerned about their federal funds being reduced. They want to know what would have the most impact and meaning when districts apply for the funds. A survey will be sent to LEAs to gather feedback from them.</p>	
7	<i>Morning Break</i>			
8	RSA Grant Update	<i>Randi Cole</i>	Update on the progress of working on contractzs and MOUs.	<p><i>Randi to send the 1 page abstract to Maddie to add to the meeting notes.</i></p> <p><i>Next meeting will discuss aspects of the RSA budget.</i></p>
9	Pyramid Collaborative Update	<i>Shannon Dunstan</i>	Applications are now open for a three-year commitment that includes professional development. The program involves state-level and program level work and is open to Head Start, LEAs, and childcare centers. This is the 5th year of applications and many applicants have chosen to continue the work after the initial three years.	
10	Cultivating Readers Update	<i>Lexie Pease</i>	<p>Cultivating Readers Update: Professional development is available for LEAs to support sustainability and systemic improvement. The target districts are those with a reading proficiency of under 50%, but all LEAs can apply. Partners are available to support LEAs, parents, and others. Activities from years 1-4 have been reviewed, and we are currently in the recruitment cycle. We have received positive feedback from current participants. The project supports entire teams including teachers, paras, and other staff, and it is a multi-tiered, multi-year initiative. We</p>	Next meeting will address data, future implications, and methodology for measuring program success. Contact Lexie or Shannon for more information.

			<p>are currently in the 8th cycle of the project.</p> <p>Shannon provided an example of explicit instruction, and there are rubrics for the professional development and to guide observations of staff who implement the instruction. Melissa from IPUL will be presenting on how they partner on this project to engage parents. Shannon also described the PD credit process for staff.</p>	
Li t	Working Lunch: SEAP Goal Update, Virtual Job Fair	<i>Chynna Hirasaki, Shannon Dunstan</i>	<p>Chynna reviewed the SEAP Goals from the previous year during the last meeting, and after a discussion, it was unanimously decided to retain those goals. The team is actively working towards achieving them, and SEAP has committed to continue supporting these objectives.</p> <p>Additional suggestions were made, including addressing the high-cost fund and responding to DMS. Brian from IESDB clarified that while SEAP is not a lobbying group, it can still offer feedback and advice on the proposal for a high-cost fund. A parent recommended rephrasing the statement to reflect SEAP's support and provision of feedback and advice on advancing the high-cost fund initiative.</p> <p>Joey inquired about the progress on each of the goals, prompting updates from various members: Shannon provided an update on early childhood, detailing the support the department offers to individual LEAs.</p> <p>The initiative "Cultivating Readers" was mentioned without further details.</p> <p>Alisa discussed the parent survey process, noting that half of the districts are surveyed each year. For small districts, the survey is sent to all, while large districts may use a sample. The goal is to distribute the survey to a broader parent audience, with Alisa set to discuss this further.</p>	<i>Next meeting we will share the results from the virtual job fair.</i>

			<p>The recruitment, hiring, and retention of special education teachers were addressed. Lisa talked about mini-grants awarded to applicants to aid in recruitment, training, and other areas, with plans to implement this strategy more regularly.</p> <p>Shannon introduced a Virtual Job Fair initiative, explaining the challenge of losing students from Idaho universities to other states or different professions, as highlighted by professors in the higher education consortium. A parent questioned if it was possible to condition the financial support on graduates staying in the state, but it was clarified that the funds used (COVID funds, not SDE funds) did not allow for such restrictions. To tackle this issue, a virtual job fair is being organized to assist districts in recruiting graduating students, offering each LEA two hours and each student 30 minutes to explore opportunities throughout Idaho for early childhood graduates. A video was shown to illustrate this.</p> <p>A pilot program is underway with a few LEAs, in collaboration with the higher education consortium, to link students with opportunities. The program will involve 2-3 districts per region, with the event scheduled for March 29th.</p>	
1 2	<p>Parent Involvement Survey Questions Selection & Final Census Determination</p>	<p><i>Alisa Fewkes, Kate Hill, Chynna Hirasaki</i></p>	<p>Alisa provided background information on the discussions and feedback. We want to ensure that families have the opportunity to give feedback. We will use child count to identify families with children currently receiving services. There are 18 questions, plus an additional write-in question. The questions cover topics such as effective communication, being equal partners, and supporting student success.</p>	<p>Next steps for the Department include the following: *Meet with sampling statistician to help create groups for districts/charters participating each year. *Review final questions. *Draft survey in the electronic tool. *Provide update to DAC. *Communicate new processes with LEAs.</p>

				*Send survey out around June 1.
1 3	IPUL News & Updates	<i>Melissa Vian</i>	<p>IPUL employs a total of 9 staff members, of which 7 are parents of children with disabilities. This organization focuses on providing support and resources to parents in similar situations.</p> <p>IPUL has recognized the need for more accessible training options for parents. As a response, they are shifting towards self-paced module-type training to accommodate parents' schedules better.</p> <p>In an effort to support literacy, IPUL has developed partnerships under the "Cultivating Readers" initiative. They have created a tip sheet for parents to encourage and support reading at home.</p> <p>IPUL utilizes Padlet, an online tool, to enhance their communication and resource sharing.</p> <p>An example of their innovative projects includes a commission by HP for a "Work of Art" that was ultimately displayed, showcasing the talents and contributions of individuals with disabilities.</p>	If anyone knows an artist in regions 4, 5, or 6, IPUL would like to connect in that area. If you know of a client who would like to commission a piece of art, please contact IPUL.
1 4	<i>Afternoon Break</i>			
1 5	<i>SLD Inquiry Workgroup- Update</i>	<i>Chynna Hirasaki</i>	<p>The Department has submitted its response to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) regarding Specific Learning Disability (SLD) criteria in Idaho. The Department stated that Idaho's criteria for SLD are not in line with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Chynna explained how the workgroup came to this conclusion and also outlined the composition of the workgroup. It was noted that the workgroup included representatives from large and small Local Education Agencies (LEAs), urban and rural areas, charter and virtual schools, directors, administrators, higher education officials, related service providers, etc. Valerie noted that there is no teacher in the workgroup, only a consulting teacher. Chynna clarified that teachers were invited but</p>	<p>The next workgroup meeting is scheduled for February 22. Chynna will report back with our findings at the next SEAP meeting.</p>

			<p>declined to join. Chynna also reviewed the scope of work and mentioned that a workgroup meeting took place on January 25th. The timeline for changes to the Idaho Administrative Procedures Act (IDAPA) was reviewed, and the need to pursue a temporary rule was discussed. Kelly raised a question about students who have been found ineligible based on the current criteria and asked if there is a process for reconsideration. Chynna summarized what the Department is referring to as the SLD Addendum or "Remedy," which addresses this concern.</p>	
1 6	<i>SEAP Recruitment & Applications: Member terms</i>	<i>Chynna Hirasaki & Katie Flores</i>	<p>Review of terms ending in May. Applications will be posted on the Department website and posted on their social media accounts. Malia will become the chair in the next cycle. Melissa will promote the application through IPUL.</p>	<i>Next Meeting: Vote on Vice-Chair and Secretary</i>
1 7	Wrap Up & Satisfaction Survey Completion	<i>Chynna Hirasaki</i>	<i>Please fill out survey.</i>	<i>Results shared out next meeting.</i>
1 8	<p><i>Meeting Adjourned</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i><u>Future Meeting Dates:</u></i> ● <i>Monday, May 20, 2024, SDE</i> 		<p>Motion: Joey Ward Second: Brian Darcy All in Favor: Unanimous</p>	Meeting adjourned.