

State Advisory Council for the Education of Children with Disabilities Minutes

The Arkansas Advisory Council for the Education of Children with Disabilities met in the Conference Room at the Victory Building, Suite 445, on Tuesday, April 16, 2024.

Council Members Present:

Cindy Ball
Sydney Dennis
Wayne Foster
DJ Graham
Dewey Graves
Jessica Hickman
Shelby Knight
Dr. Suzanne Kucharczyk
Leo Mabry
Lacey Monroe
Darlene Owens
Eric Treat
Rebecca Walker
Robyn Williams

Special Education Staff Present:

Jeff Adams
Crystal Bethea
Bonnie Boaz
Jody Fields
Yvonne Greene
Josh Hart
Becky McIver
Robin Stripling
Michelle Waldo

The meeting began at 10:04 a.m. with Ms. Rebecca Walker, Chairperson, calling the Council meeting to order. Ms. Walker welcomed the Advisory Council members and Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, Office of Special Education (DESE-OSE) staff to the meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motions were made by Mr. DJ Graham and seconded by Mr. Eric Treat to approve the minutes from the January 16, 2024, meeting, and the minutes were approved by the council.

Ms. Rebecca Walker, Chairperson, mentioned the need for teacher and parent representation for the Advisory Council. Various people were suggested by Council members. Please submit all written nominations via email to Rebecca or Jeff for consideration.

Dr. Jeff Adams, Director of Special Education for the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, Office of Special Education, gave an overview of Arkansas' Part B Interactive Spreadsheet FFY 24. Every February our annual application for the next year is discussed. The annual application pertains to the money the state received from the federal government for the education of students with disabilities. The proposed budget was discussed, and Council Members provided input.

Ms. Becky McIver, State Systemic Plan Coordinator for Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, Office of Special Education, shared the mission of the Arkansas Collaborative Consultants (ACC), which is "To create and sustain a coordinated system of support for families and local school districts to maximize outcomes for all students, especially students with disabilities." To better understand the ways in which the ACC can support families, the Advisory Council was asked to provide input into the types of beneficial resources the ACC might include on their websites as well as print resources that might be housed within each district/school. Additionally, a plan for hosting family focus groups was shared with the

Council. Four questions were presented, and the Council had the opportunity to provide feedback as well as develop additional questions that might be included to gain further insight on how the ACC might improve their current system of support.

Mr. Dewey Graves, Council Member, shared a personal reflection. He shared the importance of positive attitudes and how valuable it is to others through personal reflection in his own life. Over the years, Mr. Graves was taught that he can overcome difficulties, and to never give up. He believes the council is making a difference in Arkansas and he is very proud to serve.

Section Reports:

Section Reports were presented and are available to view on the Special Education website.

Next Steps and Final Remarks:

The next Council meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was adjourned at 1:49 p.m.