



**Wayne County Parent Advisory Committee**

33500 Van Born Road  
Wayne, MI 48184-2497  
(734) 334-1625  
Fax: (734) 334-1494

Eileen Brandt, Chairperson Ilesha Brassell & Kara Clarke, Vice-Chairperson  
Jennifer Padgett & Samara Wolf, Secretary Lori Huntington, Treasurer

**MEETING MINUTES**  
May 9, 2019

**I. Call to Order**

Eileen Brandt called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. A quorum of members was present.

**Members Present:**

Clare Brick Dearborn	Ilesha Brassell Dearborn Hgts #7	Joann Goree Detroit	Tiffany Edmonds Ecorse
Jennifer Seal Garden City	Heather Stefan Grosse Ile	Eileen Brandt Livonia	Kara Clarke Livonia
Michelle DeJesus Melvindale – NAP	Maria Warmuth Northville	Carol Matthews Riverview	Theresa Beard Romulus
Jacqueline Dalzell Romulus	Michelle Muse-Worthy Southgate	Philip Czernik Trenton	Lori Huntington Westwood
Jenn Padgett Woodhaven-Brownstown	Jim Michalik Canton Charter Academy	Samara Wolf Quest Academy	

**Members on Phone:**

Eilia Syed, Dearborn  
Mary Benson, South Canton Charter  
Linda MacClinton, Redford Union

**Members Excused:**

Barb Wilson, Plymouth  
Maha Jaber, Crestwood  
Sarah Groeneveld, Achieve Charter  
Rebecca French, Metro Charter

**Guests Present:**

Linda Junod, Parent  
Carole Edmonds  
Rebecca Aileni  
Christin Roth from Wayne Westland  
Janell Wilcox, Parent  
Martha Lancaster  
Dawn Reamer

Kristen Jacobson, Livonia Public Schools  
Kathleen McCarty

**RESA Representatives:**

Karen Howey  
Larry Stemple

**II. Approval of Agenda**

A copy of the agenda was emailed to members & posted to the website in advance and made available at the meeting. A motion was made by **Theresa Beard** and seconded by **Jennifer Seal** to accept the agenda. Motion was supported by majority of members present. No objections were made.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

A copy of the **April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019** minutes were emailed and posted to the website to members in advance and made available at the meeting. A motion was made by **Jim Michalik** and seconded by **Jennifer Seal** to accept the minutes with the updates provided during discussion.

Discussion:

Tiffany Edmonds forgot to sign in but was in attendance last month's meeting. Meeting attendance tracking will be updated.

Subcommittee reports: Lori Huntington as treasurer was not documented in the last month's meeting minutes, she will be serving as treasurer for this upcoming term.

Motion supported by majority present. No objections were made.

**IV. Presentation:**

Kelly Rogers from START: Statewide Autism in Training

START is a grant funded program funded by Michigan Department of Education (MDE)

Presentation on: Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)

FAPE in the LRE should be the new blood borne pathogens of the school year, meaning that district personnel and parents should have yearly training of what FAPE in LRE is, similar to the yearly training they attend regarding blood borne pathogens

Getting everyone to understand what exactly FAPE and LRE means is like herding cats ([YouTube Video](#))

Remember that practice is NOT necessarily law, policy, or rule. So much of what is done is based on past practices instead of what they should be based on; decisions need to be informed by the law, research, and/or data.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) included FAPE and LRE when it was authored and first authorized in 1975 and is on the heels of Brown vs Board of Education; it was and remains a civil rights law.

Under FAPE: Special Education & Related Services Include:

- Specially Designed Instruction: Adapting the content, methodology, or delivery of instructions

- Unique needs resulting from the disability – what about the disability is impacting a student’s educational environment?
- Ensures access to the general curriculum to meet the STATE educational standards that apply to all children

US Supreme Court Interpretations:

- BOE Hendrick-Hudson Central v Rowley (1982) ruled in favor of the district as the school was providing educational benefits
- Endrew F. v Douglas County (2017) ruled in favor of the family because the student is supposed to be provided MEANINGFUL educational benefits

LRE: the Least Restrictive Environment is an environment in which “to the maximum extent appropriate child with disabilities...are educated in the general education classroom with children who are not disabled...” ...and that special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of children with disabilities from regular educational environment occurs only if the nature or severity of the disability is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily.”

Inclusive Supports:

1. Tier 1 are supports expected for all students
2. Tier 2 include visual modifications, peer to peer, supplementary Aides & Services
3. Tier 3 is Very targeted and may include behavior intervention plans for example

Inclusion is not solely dependent on geography to be considered LRE. The student needs to be able to be a part of the content of instruction, instructional strategies, be provided an opportunity to respond, and a part of a culture of belonging.

There is no segregated Walmart or a separate McDonald’s for people with disabilities, the best place to start to de-segregate and be inclusive is in the classroom.

Studies done across a variety of disabilities has proven that the amount of time a special education student spends included in the General Education Classroom leads to improved education, opportunity for employment, and independent living. Additional studies done for ASD specific students proved again that reading, writing, and math those students that spent the majority of their educational time in a general education classroom did significantly better than those in that same group that spent the majority of their time in special education classrooms.

Be empowered to ask what a score means AND what is it compared to the general education student body.

“There is clear and convincing evidence that inclusive educational settings can confer substantial short and long-term benefits to students with *and* without disabilities”

Study after study, they found many typical kids had neutral or positive effects both academic achievement and social competence. Additional benefits for the students without disabilities are reduced fear of human differences, increase friendly relationships, less prejudice, less patronizing / pitying behavior.

START is involved in Peer-to-Peer programs in over 900 schools across the state. To get it kicked off in your district speak to your Special Ed director or the person you're closest to that department. Can always contact Karen Howey from RESA as well.

Two Primary Reasons for excluding students with complex needs:

1. Perception they will not be able to academically keep up: the purpose of providing supplementary aids and services is to support students with disabilities as active participants with nondisabled peers as well as to enable their access to general curriculum. Under this supplementary aids and services tells us that a child with a disability is not removed from education in age-appropriate regular classrooms solely because of needed modification in the general curriculum
2. Behavior: It is required that appropriate behavioral supports are appropriately implemented and tried with fidelity before a child is moved to a more restrictive environment.

At the end of the day FAPE trumps LRE and the #1 goal is the meeting of IEP goals. If IEP goals are not being met, then the discussion must be had regarding general education instruction.

Case Law in 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit Hamilton Co DOE (August 2018) weighed in and said, "What the IDEA implies, the case law makes explicit: A child need not master the general education curriculum for inclusion to remain a viable option...the appropriate yardstick is whether the child, with appropriate supplemental aids and services, can make progress toward the IEP goals in the regular education meeting."

Again, a goal of START is to treat FAPE in the LRE as the new blood borne pathogens – training for *every* staff member, *every* parent, *every* year.

## V. Chairperson Report –

Special recognition is next Wednesday at the Wayne RESA BOE meeting. If you have not RSVP'd to Eileen please do so right away. Names are already engraved on the plaque outside this room.

PAC meeting dates for next year were distributed and attached here and listed below

September 12, 2019

October 10, 2019

November 14, 2019

December 12, 2019

January 9, 2020

February 13, 2020

March 12, 2020

April 16, 2020 (NOTE: this meeting is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month due to Spring Break)

May 14, 2020

June 11, 2020

OK to Say Initiative: [Tomorrow's News Report](#) from Sandy Hook Promise

## VI. Vice Chairperson Report-

Updated rosters are being distributed. Remember the **information is for members only** and for your reference, not for distribution outside of PAC membership.

## VII. Secretary Report

Do not forget to sign in at every meeting so we're able to reflect accurate minutes and for eligible WCPAC members to be reimbursed for mileage at year-end.

### **III. Treasurer Report**

Lori Huntington reported the balance remains at \$2,751.06

#### **Conference Attendees Report Out:**

Theresa Beard attended MTSA, a Michigan Transition Conference, and heard speaker that is blind and an adventure seeker and participated some team building, saw a Screening of the movie *Intelligent Lives*, heard Randy Lewis, former Executive from Walgreens (he set up a distribution center where the goal was to have employees with disabilities as 30% of the total staff; he had amazing success).

Clare Brick attended Adult Down Syndrome conference that had several break out sessions. Clare focused on self-advocacy sessions. Keynote speaker was Karen Gaffney, long distance swimmer and advocate with down syndrome. Able Eyes application that helps the blind "see" with their iPhone and will provide people with social stories prior to an event.

Samara attended Michigan Council for Exceptional Children in Grand Rapids. Attended several sessions and went through the vendor area where you could actually see and use the devices that were referenced in the learning sessions. Attended a session regarding using your technology to help create a schedule for your child, "Luke it's 7am so brush your teeth" or "James it's time to get dressed".

Eileen attended a training on becoming an employment-training specialist. Even if a training session is geared toward educators or an employment specialist or whoever you will be better able to help your child and others if you know what is being done and expected. Also attended MTSA and START conferences, due to her involvement with other boards. At START conference, Michele Garcia Winter presented on social thinking and social learning and Jed Baker presented on social training. START information can be found at [www.GVSU.edu/autismcenter](http://www.GVSU.edu/autismcenter). The focus was on relationships. Remember people in the 40s only had an 8<sup>th</sup> grade education but they were fully functioning adults and created businesses and lived productive lives – they might not have had K-12 years of education but they were socially aware.

Linda Junod (former member, present guest) attended MTSA in Grand Traverse. Attended 6 sessions. The session regarding restraint, there is supposed to be a person on staff that is trained in restraint and should be the only one that can engage in children being aggressive. Decision making, and guardianship session taught Linda that the courts can make a 3<sup>rd</sup> party a person responsible for your adult child so it is imperative that you make informed decisions. Unified sports was brought forward, a parent can go to their website and, using your zip code, find unified sports or special Olympics offered in your area.

### **IX. Subcommittee Reports**

Bylaws: No Report

Legislative: No Report

Nomination / Election: No Report

Parent Handbook: Team met prior to the WCPAC meeting and will be working in the coming weeks to update the handbook

Special Recognition: See chairperson report above

**X. RESA Reports – Larry Stemple and Karen Howey**

Larry: Thank you to Eileen for the work she did on the special recognition certificates she created. While the Wayne RESA BOE meeting starts at 8:30 recognition will be on the agenda closer to 8:40 – 8:45 am.

**XI. Member Reports**

Ilesha has been doing some selfcare and recently went to Stretch Zone in Livonia. Call 734.805.1500 and ask for Jason for your free 30-minute stretch

Jenn talked about the app from Microsoft for the visually impaired, Seeing AI

**XII. Adjournment**

A motion was made by **Michelle Muse-Worthy** and seconded by **Ilesha Brassell** to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. Motion passed by majority present. No objections were made.

**The next WCPAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 13, 2019 at 6:30pm at Wayne RESA in Arthurs Auditorium.**