



**Wayne County Parent Advisory Committee**

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

**MEETING MINUTES**  
November 8, 2018

**I. Call to Order**

Eileen Brandt called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. A quorum of members was present.

**Members Present:**

Maha Jaber Crestwood	Ilesha Brassell Dearborn Hts. #7	Joann Goree Detroit	Heather Stefan Grosse Ile
Angela Edwards Huron	Eileen Brandt Livonia	Kara Clark Livonia	Michelle DeJesus Melvindale-NAP
Maria Warmuth Northville	Barb Wilson Plymouth/Canton	Linda MacClinton Redford Union	Khalilah Montgomery Redford Union
Carol Matthews Riverview	Theresa Beard Romulus	Philip Czernik Trenton	Lori Huntington Westwood
Jamie LaForest Wyandotte	Sarah Groeneveld Achieve Charter	Jim Michalik Canton Charter Acad.	Samara Wolf Quest Charter Acad.

**Members on Phone:** Eilia Syed

**Members Excused:** Jennifer Padgett, Clare Brick, Dana Bruton

**Guests Present:** Linda Junod-Gibraltar, Jennifer Seal – Garden City, Christine Bethel – Northville, Carol Welsch – WBSD, Jadie Kieft – Northville, Rebecca French – Metro Charter Acad., Nicole Ballard – Romulus, Celeste Johnson – Detroit, Jacqueline Dalzell – Romulus, Samantha Sachleben – Woodhaven, Carol LaPointe – Redford Union, Jennifer O’Connor – Northville/Riverview, Kathy McCartney – Grosse Ile

**RESA Representatives:** Karen Howey Present Larry Stemple Present

<b>Dates to Remember</b>	
<i>MI Developmental Disabilities Council Learning opportunities &amp; Train-The-Trainer: Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup> Charting the Course to Employment Summit</i>	
<i>MI Developmental Disabilities Council Learning Opportunities &amp; Train-The-Trainer: Tuesday November 27<sup>th</sup> Train-The-Trainer: Family Engagement around Employment and Partnering with Families around employment</i>	
<i>MI Developmental Disabilities Council Learning Opportunities &amp; Train-The-Trainer: Wednesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>: Charting the Life Course Community Wide Event</i>	
<i>December 13<sup>th</sup>: Next PAC Meeting</i>	

**II. Approval of Agenda**

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

**III. Approval of Minutes**

A copy of the October 11, 2018 minutes was mailed and posted to the website to members, in advance, and made available at the meeting. A motion was made by Carol Matthews and seconded by Jim Michalik to accept the minutes as noted. Motion supported by majority present. No objections were made.

**IV. Presentation:** Presenters Derrick Graves and Christine Skoglund from WATT- Wayne Assistive Technology Team; (previously known as ATTC – Assistive Technology Training & Information Center (formerly housed in Detroit) and ATRC-Assistive Technology Resource Center (formerly housed in Lincoln Park). By consolidating services and personnel in one location, the hope is to provide maximum services to districts throughout Wayne County. They are located at: 29115 Carlyse St. Inkster, MI. 48141 (West end of the Burger-Baylor School). Two days a week, the former location of ATTC is open and available. Phone: 734-334-1701 Hours: M-F 8:30-4:30pm [wattsupport@resa.net](mailto:wattsupport@resa.net)

The staff of WATT are available to assist schools in effectively evaluating and implementing Assistive Technology (or AT, for short) in the school setting.

The definition of Assistive Technology (AT) is: any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, created from materials already available or equipment/supplies modified to assist student to participate in the classroom. The exception to what is considered AT are items which are medically or surgically implanted or the replacement of such a device.

Why use AT: It can help students who have any type of disability to gain greater success at school and ease difficulties students have with the school environment and can assist with communication (written

and verbal), sitting, standing, using physical education equipment—the possibilities are endless and as unique as the learner! AT can really boost learning!

AT can be a communication Board, pencil grip, calculator, talking dictionary or many other things. AT it is *not*: things like Cochlear Implant (surgically implanted device), extended time (accommodation), paraprofessional reading text aloud to a student (accommodation).

The consideration of AT is mandated by federal law for every student receiving an IEP. Not every student requires AT, but it should always be a consideration of the IEP Team. Putting agreed upon AT into place is the IEP team's responsibility.

Many different types of AT: Low Tech – Usually does not involve batteries, Mid Tech – May require batteries, High Tech – More sophisticated/involved, such as computers.

AT Low tech Examples: Pencil grips, highlighters, highlighter tape, book accessories, easy book clip (works like an easel to be able to stand a book upright to increase desktop workspace) post-it notes, communication boards, magnifiers, felt boards, and MORE

AT Mid Tech Examples: Portable word processors (NEO) for creating a word document, talking dictionary, static communication devices

AT High Tech Examples: Computers/laptops, iPads, Dynamic communication devices, eye-gaze, software to support academics, complex computer access software and devices

Examples of some AT possibilities for Students:

Reading: Page “fluffer”-old contact lens cases or round Velcro-(to help a student flip pages), Slant boards (holds books, pages or iPad), text enlargement (for VI students mostly) traveler by opti-light, Audio books (most are free), Text to speech (Chrome apps heavily used, can use cellphones), Highlighter tape (great for editing), accessibility features (e.g. iPad, chrome books, etc.)

Studying/Learning: highlighter tape, highlight text, print or picture schedule, Apps/Extensions (over 300 apps that WATT provides support for), Web resources (constantly updating)

Math: Talking calculators, math line (like an abacus) various numbers and sizes, modified paper (raised line), Specialty software, apps, Web resources

Communication: Go talk, communication boards, eye gaze, voice output communication devices (big mac, step by step), Apps

Writing: pencil grips, crayons (slick sticks- smoother writing crayons for younger kids), slant boards, portable word processor, raised line paper, talking dictionary, voice recognition software, iPad-Notes/Siri, google docs

Computer Access: Adapted keyboards (waterproof/flexible keyboard), alternative mice (joysticks, trackballs), Switches (Bluetooth, adaptive), Mounts

Daily living: power link device (operates by switch), Dycem (low tech, stops objects from moving), switches, personal assistant/Siri (Scoog- makes music, very interactive)

Visually Impaired: Magnifiers, Large print/ Braille, Color Contrast, Alternative Keyboards (raised with Braille), Text-to-speech, bookshare (free service, over 700,000 titles to choose from)

Deaf/Hard of Hearing: Visual schedules, apps for HI, hands-on math/math manipulatives, carbonless notebook paper, echo pen –live scribe pen (capture the speaker’s voice when you touch special paper it plays it back).

Why is AT so important?

Provides tools for students to accomplish, extend and improve their physical, social, academic and communication abilities.

The team at WATT provide consultation and work with school staff and students

The team at WATT also provide evaluations – printed report (evaluation is not essential to start using AT); this is usually at the request of the school staff.

When things are complicated and people are wondering what else can be done, WATT is available to provide other ideas. Services are provided anywhere from babies to age 26. WATT is always updating with the times and on the look out for new ways to assist students.

The lending library provides items on a three month loan, if the item is not in high demand, you can renew it. There is a special agreement for parents using the lending library.

WATT has a lab for printing of larger items and creating materials to meet student needs- Need an AT coordinator needs to help whomever is using this service and the teacher would need to make an appointment.

Detroit facility (ATTC location) has some lab equipment like a laminator, poster board printer, etc. and has scheduled openings, usually two days a week—always call first!

## **V. Chairperson Report –**

Sign up for WCPAC REMIND by texting: [@wcpac to 81010](https://www.wcpac.org/)

Remember that WCPAC roster information is for WCPAC Members *only*. If you are contacted by someone looking for a district representative please contact the representative directly and ask if they are willing to make contact.

Highlighted a free App that provides a task analysis/schedule for individuals to utilize in the workplace, home or community: Clemson smartphone apps – Task analysis lite (it’s on apple). Pictures or clip art can be used to provide a schedule (or task analysis) of each task (laundry, using a copier, whatever task needs to be accomplished).

Eileen was looking for information on the Michigan.gov website and found that they have an outdated Acronym sheet published that includes an outdated acronym of TMI (trainable mentally impaired). She urged everyone to be sure to monitor websites, as it is often difficult for organizations to maintain their website—we need to make sure that information that is being put out by credible sources is accurate and contact organizations, if they have outdated information. Eileen also mentioned that this is a task that she would like one of the WCPAC Subcommittees to take on to review RESA guidance documents and information.

From SEAC (State Special Education Advisory Committee):  
Current legislation that you might want to look at:  
HB5707 and HB6401 (HB= House Bill)  
HB6291 – Area CTE programs (Career Technically Education)  
HB6314 – Public Innovative Districts (PID's)  
HB4421- (S-2) – Substitute Teaching

Mental Health – We have a very low rate of student to mental health professional ratio

Laurie VanderPloeg will be the new Director of Office of Special Education Programs in Washington. (She was formerly in Kent County, Michigan).

OSEP Response – Letter to Lipsitt – State educational agencies have “broad flexibility” when determining appropriate remedies for compensatory education. (link will come out on listserv)

State determination – in response to Michigan’s “needs intervention determination”, the MDE Special Education Director, Teri Chapman will present to the state board of education at next week’s board meeting. Chapman will convene a steering committee to determine specific actions to take. Chapman will designate action teams to address short- and long-term recommendations to address: Reading, math proficiency, graduation and dropout rates. Eileen did ask about the makeup of the steering committee and would parents and other stakeholders be included. Teri Chapman stated that there will be fifteen people on the steering committee and that each of those members will have three people they can invite and parents will definitely be included.

The Michigan Special Education Mediation Program (MSEMP) is changing their name to SEMS (Special Education Mediation Services)

## **VI. Vice Chairperson Report**

Membership subcommittee – Kara: Members attendance and participation is really important. Per our bylaws, a WCPAC Member who has two absences can be contacted via a letter asking what is your commitment level to the WCPAC? If you receive one of these letters, please respond to Eileen or any board member. There have been ten letters sent out this week to WCPAC Members who have missed the first two meetings of the year. These members have received phone calls and emails and now letters. We know that things come up in life, but we have, at most, ten meetings per school year: we need you at the meetings—your district needs you to attend the meetings!

New members see Kara or Ilesha for new member packet.

## **VII. Secretary Report**

Please remember to sign in each meeting for RESA mileage reimbursement and for attendance tracking in minutes. See secretary for business card forms if necessary. Guests—please sign in on the guest sign-in sheets!

## **VIII. Treasurer Report**

Account remains the same at \$2,751.06

**IX. Subcommittee Reports**

If you haven't signed up for any subcommittees, please go to the link Larry has sent out on listserv.

Eileen will be sending out the listing of who signed up for what subcommittee soon. Then we will work on scheduling meetings for the different subcommittees and Eileen will be choosing people to ask to act as leaders of each subcommittee.

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

Karen- High priority right now is really looking for delivery of services for kids with Autism – different ways to deliver services so that students are in the least restrictive environment. Collaborating with local school districts.

Delivery framework, provides a continuum of learning

ASD – high incident now vs before low incident, our delivery system was based on low incident. The needs have outgrown the delivery system.

Larry- No report to give, at this time.

**XI. Member Reports**

Theresa Beard- Re-elected as Board Trustee for Romulus Board of Education.

**XII. Public Comment**

Questions were asked about SCI/SXI (Severely Cognitively Impaired/Severely Multiply Impaired) from birth to age 26 and LRE accountability; why are kids immediately segregated when they have either of those diagnoses? Why isn't that a priority for the county and only the ASD population is being focused on? Karen Howey responded to these questions and expanded on her report of the county placing focus on ASD and the resulting impact to local school districts. Karen also stated that every student is entitled to an IEP that includes placement in the LRE. A student's placement is a determination made by the IEP team. Eileen responded that the education system and focus is different than it was even ten years ago; however, it is always a parent's right to utilize the safeguards and procedures to dissent or appeal any decisions made at the IEP.

Questions were asked about how do WCPAC members get information out to parents to advertise the WCPAC meetings, especially to individual parents that don't have Facebook pages?

Eileen: There are not absolute rules – it's all based on individual WCPAC Members, Special Ed. Directors and districts. Some WCPAC Members share the information and resources with special education directors, teachers or principles via listserv. Some share via just networking with various parents

There was discussion about sharing Lifesize Cloud that members use to attend meetings via computer/phone, with the public. This will be looked at to see if it is a viable option.

**III. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Barb Wilson and seconded by Ilesha Brassell to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Motion passed by majority present. No objections were made.

**The next WCPAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 13, 2018 at 6:30pm at Wayne RESA in the Boyd Arthur's Auditorium**