ACESD Full Council Meeting Minutes

Virtual Meeting via Zoom
March 28, 2025

Members Present:

Allison Adrian, Greta Bailey, Susan Beck, Valarie Bishop, Megan Burns, Shana Charles, Senekita Farmer, Rebekah Francis-Barnes, Jeni Garner, Elaine Gentry, Heather Googe, Nikki Green, Denean Greene Rivers, Deborah Harris-Sims, Malerie Hartsell, Wendy Hite, Allison Huffstutler, Kim Humphrey, Robert Jones, Kerri Kannengieser, Cathy Kovacs, Angie Lucas, Gini Nichols, Yasmin O'Keefe, Sadina Outlaw, Shannon Polchow, Lindsay Porter, Anne Radue, Teresa Rhodes, Lindsay Schmelzel, Liz Smithson, Meghan Trowbridge, Karen Tucker, Laura Vazquez, Margie Williamson, Mary Wood, Amber Woodward

Guests/SCDE Staff Present:

Emalee Baker (for Susan Howard), Anita Ellison-Porter (for Erin Laughter), Sherri Evans, Cheryl Fitts, Shannon Jones, Lisa McCliment, Angie Neal, Sherry Pressley, Jennifer Rainville, LaToya Wiley, Rebecca Williams-Agee

Welcome, call to order by Susan Beck, Chair 10:00 a.m.

Approval of January 2025 Minutes:

Val Bishop made a motion to approve minutes. Kerri Kannengieser seconded. There was no discussion. Approved.

2025-2026 Meeting Format Survey:

Allison Huffstutler asked council members to take a survey about next year's meeting format. The link to the Google form was distributed via Zoom chat.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Sub-Committee Meetings:

Committees met in breakout sessions.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Preschool:

The committee discussed inclusion and drafted a working schedule for continuing their work on the EC Inclusion State Leadership Team (SLT) for April, May, and June.

Professional Development:

The committee discussed a draft letter about creating parent advisory councils. The committee was approached about potential legislation on the Local Special Education Advisory Councils, and discussed an upcoming meeting with Pierce McNair, Director of Research for the South Carolina State House of Representatives.

Transition and Self Advocacy:

The committee searched for new project ideas, which included: instilling programs that would allow students to advocate for themselves, redirecting behaviors, parent-friendly cheat sheets for the South Carolina standards, and finding ways to assist students at the age of majority and beyond.

Safe Schools/Social Emotional Learning:

Rebecca Williams and Jennifer Rainville joined the committee to discuss myriad issues. One major concern expressed by the governor is missing SROs in schools. They also discussed the current 504 lawsuit.

OSES Updates:

New Web Site

- The Department has rolled out a new web site.
- Lisa McCliment navigated through the new site, highlighting where the SSIP and new standards are housed.

Early Childhood Performance Factor

- Carolyn Bostick and Sherri Evans discussed how the state tiers districts and determine support.
- When districts are struggling with Indicator 6, the state looks at the child outcome summary (COS) completion.
- There is a great need to focus on COS and trying to improve the COS with the help from outside agencies like SCPI.

EDPlan SC Rollout Update

- The state provided more support for end users through webinars.
- Of the seven districts not fully on board with EDPlan SC, Williamsburg, Laurens 55, and Newberry will transition to full implementation.

- The translation feature was piloted and will move forward, in addition to onboarding the Parent Portal feature.

2025-2026 New Member Application Process:

Fourteen people have applied to be on the Advisory Council. Applicants include: seven parents, two people with disabilities, two agency representatives, one higher education representative, one administrator, and one in transition services.

Announcements:

There were no announcements.

Motion to adjourn:

Kerri Kannengieser moved to adjourn. Denean Greene Rivers seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Next Advisory Council meeting:

The 2025-2026 dates will be released soon.