

OPTIMISE Task Force Minutes

June 28, 2024

Attendees: Shailee Patel, Anthony Strevett, John Severson, Ben Hicks, Tina Kerr, Teri Pettit, Lauren Mangus, Renee Brunette, Kelly Rogers, Rachel Fuerer

1. Welcome
2. Action Items-documents attached
 - a. Behavior Support Action Team Recommendations- A presentation was made by Kelly Rogers, 1 of the team leads of the Behavior Support Team, regarding the “white paper” and the teams’ recommendations. Action Team recommendations were reviewed also. Task Force members indicated their support of these recommendations with comments such as “we need it” and “complex, important, hits the right notes.”
 - b. Speech and Language Pathologist Action Team Recommendations-Laurie VanderPloeg reviewed these recommendations with comments by Action Team lead, Anthony Strevett. The Task Force supported the recommendations with comments such as “hit the nail on the head about caseload but how do we do it now with the shortage,” “need to also look at it is a workload issue, “have been doing a caseload of 45 for a while and it’s going well.”
3. Information items
 - a. Website/Job Board/social media -We have had 7.5 million impressions so far this year and 82,000 clicks to the website. The Job Board has had 25,000 job seekers.
 - b. State Board of Education Presentation-OPTIMISE was invited to present to the Board in June by Dr. Rice and Dr. Harmala. Comments received after were very positive about the work of OPTIMISE.
 - c. MAASE PD-OPTIMISE and CR Marketing did a half day virtual presentation in June updating members on the work of OPTIMISE and several of our Action Teams. CR Marketing presented ideas for districts for them to help elevate the profession and get more interest in jobs they need filled in special education.
 - d. Action Team updates
 1. Standards/Credentialing-Still in process
 2. Paraeducator-Pilot training begins this summer through MAASE; the other recommendations from this group are still in process.

3. DHH-Have concluded; meeting in July to hear their recommendations
4. Paperwork Reduction-Met in May and are working on next steps.
5. Workload/Caseload-Met in May and are working on next steps with convening additional team members in the fall.
- e. Convening-The convening of Ed Organizations will be held on August 22 in Lansing
4. Funding and future meetings -were discussed with a continuation of quarterly meeting next year.
5. Task Force members--updates, questions, etc.
 - a. Comment shared about being disappointed about the outcome of the School Aid Budget with no per pupil increase and the need to educate legislators about the work schools do and their needs.

Adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Future meetings held virtually from 9-11 a.m.:

- September 13, 2024
- December 13, 2024
- March 28, 2025
- June 27, 2025
- September 26, 2025
- December 12, 2025