

OPTIMISE Task Force Meeting
April 21, 2025 and April 22, 2025
MINUTES

Members in attendance: April 21-John Severson, Teri Pettit, Abby Cypher, Teri Rink, Rep. Carol Glanville; April 22-Joe Lubig, Erik Edoff, Tina Kerr, Shailee Patel, Amy Phaneuf, Kanika Littleton, Jennifer Gard, Laurie VanderPloeg, Kathy Fortino

1. Welcome – Laurie explained that in order to meet everyone’s schedule, we decided to hold this meeting on 2 different days so members could select the one which was best for them.
2. Compensation Recommendations—The recommendations were discussed by the group after Laurie provided background on the process and intent of the recommendations as they are meant for the state, ISDs and districts to consider. Members voiced that these were good retention strategies and suggested we do a supplement if we receive more ideas. Members were asked to share them with their organization’s membership. The group approved moving them forward.
3. Workload/Caseload Recommendations-Laurie shared the background about these recommendations including the process and the need for workload calculators. The calculators would not be required but encouraged to be used by districts. Members said that the calculators help with talking about what our staff are actually doing and how they spend their time. The action team was also asked to add any references that they had. The Task Force approved these recommendations to move forward.
4. Behavior Recommendations-Laurie shared that we were working on a potential appropriations request for statewide training and coaching. We are working with MAISA, SEILN, MDE and Mi-LEAP. MAASE requested that they be added to future meetings. The most recent survey that was done by MEA indicated that behavior was the #1 issue for staff. The Task Force approved moving this forward. It is important that member organizations support this when the final language is written.
5. OPTIMISE received workforce data from CEPI. We are in the process of working the MSU’s EPIC Center to analyze the data.

6. SE Teacher Standards-Public Comment has concluded and been analyzed by MDE. Members were thanked for their support around public comment. The Standards go back to the State Board of Education on May 13. Laurie and Kathy will be attending.
7. State and federal meetings-We have continued meeting with our Michigan Legislators. Laurie also has met with Sen. Cassidy and the USDOE and also with the Senior Policy Director for Rep. Walberg. She will be meeting with Rep. Walburg in the near future. He is the chair of the House Education and Workforce Committee.
8. Information for your website about OPTIMISE was shared with members.
9. Website and Social Media update was given.
10. Recommendations from the Task Force:
 - NMU's enrollment in their SE Teacher prep programs is exploding!
 - MASA and MAASE are starting applications for the 2nd cohort of the Alternate Route to SE Director program
 - Laurie is presenting at the MASSW meeting on May 17. They are also preparing to lead an action team.
 - Look at making a connection with community colleges
 - Keep the momentum going
 - MAASE-Paraeducator training, Alt Route and Building Leaders are all moving forward with good enrollment. MAASE is also looking at how to make the modules available on demand.
 - MAASE can do Action Alerts
 - Rep. Glanville suggested an Op-Ed and representation on committees along with presenting to the Education Committee.

April 21 Adjourned at 10:24

April 22 Adjourned at 10:03