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**Minutes**

April 9, 2019

10 a.m.

Scarritt Bennett

1008 19th Avenue South

Nashville, TN 37212

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| **Council Members in Attendance** | **Department Employees in Attendance** |
| Shannon Taylor, Chair  Jennifer Escue | Theresa Nicholls, Assistant Commissioner  Gary Smith |
| Mary Meador | Kate Martin |
| Angela Jackson | Erin Lavery |
| Melvin Jackson | Nancy Williams |
| Catherine Knowles | Stella Yarbrough |
| Dawn Fry  David Craig | Joann Runion  Susan Usery |
|  | Blake Shearer |
|  | Anika Chambers |
|  | Alison Gauld  Michael Holman  Kristen McKeever |

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| --- | --- |
| **Council Members Not in Attendance** | **Visitors in Attendance** |
| Joey Ellis – Vice Chair | Karen Pearson |
| Amy Allen  Brian Brown  Chantal Hess-Taylor  Darlene Walden  Paula Brownyard  Stephanie Ortego  Travis Commons | Jennifer Crim  Dianne Barber Miller  Sherry Wilds  Jen Aprea |

**Objective**

Provide policy guidance with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities in Tennessee.

**Welcome/Introductions Shannon Taylor, Chair**

* A brief introduction was made for the second Advisory Council meeting of 2019. Guests, council members, and TDOE employees were thanked for their attendance.

**Approval of Current Agenda (AC Goal 7)**

See AC website ([here](http://www.tennessee.gov/education/article/special-education-advisory-council)) for agenda

* **Action Item**

Shannon Taylor, chair, made a motion to approve the April 9, 2019 agenda. The motion was seconded shortly after.

* **Final Action Taken**

The Council voted unanimously in favor of approving the April 9, 2019 agenda.

**Approval of January 15 Meeting Minutes (AC Goal 7)**

See AC website ([here](https://www.tn.gov/education/student-support/special-education/special-education-advisory-council.html)) for October minutes

* **Action Item**

A motion was made to approve the January 15, 2019 minutes.

* **Final Action Taken**

The Council voted unanimously in favor of approving the January 15, 2019 minutes.

**Recommendations on Goals, Bylaws, and Focus Areas (AC Goal 7) Shannon Taylor, Chair**

* The members of the council that were present met for a working-session before the meeting began.
* Building off previous recommendations, the council decided to make some changes regarding the language of their goals and bylaws in hopes of making them more specific and easily measurable.
  + Shannon Taylor, chair, stated that she would be emailing the updated goals and bylaws shortly after the meeting took place.
* The term *Goals* will be changed to *Guiding Principles.*
* Three Guiding Principles will be chosen as focus areas for the council.
  + The vote on these Guiding Principles will take place at the July meeting.
* Shannon stated the necessity of a quorum for the July meeting and asked for as many council members as possible to be in attendance.

**Department Updates (AC Goal 7) Theresa Nicholls, Assistant Commissioner**

* Theresa made note of departmental reorganization and its effect on the Division of Special Populations.
  + The general scope of her purview will soon be limited to school age, rather than the broad spectrum previously encompassed.
* The special education bill currently passing through legislature has been progressing.
  + There were no drastic changes made, just language clarification and updates as it had not been altered in many years.

**Annual Performance Report (Goal 6) Rachel Wilkinson**

* The Annual Performance Report (APR) discloses data and progress toward state and federal targets set for the department.
* A packet was distributed containing data from the 2017-18 school year. Multiple indicators were discussed and their relevance was explained.
* It is the division’s goal to share LRE data at the July meeting.

**Public Comments (AC Goal 7)**

* Dianne Miller prepared a presentation for the council regarding community and practitioner engagement.
* Dianne is part of the department’s new Teacher Ambassador Program.
* Dianne suggested that there should be more teacher representation on the council, a live forum, and live streaming of the meeting.

**New Business/Additional Items (AC Goal 7) Shannon Taylor, Chair**

* There were no additional items shared with the council.

**Call for Future Meeting Topics (AC Goal 7) Shannon Taylor, Chair**

* It was asked that an early childhood discussion be placed on the agenda for July.
* It was proposed that time be set aside to discuss the inclusion of educator spotlights or other forms in which Tennessee educators could be formally recognized by the council.
* A vote for by-law amendments will take place at the July meeting.

**Closing Remarks/Adjourn (AC Goal 7) Shannon Taylor, Chair**

* Shannon Taylor thanked everyone for attending and stated that she would email notes from the working session that took place before the meeting to the council in the days following the meeting.