

# Nonpublic Advisory Committee Meeting

Virtual

October 13, 2020

Advisory Committee Attendees - Kim Hermsen (Archdiocese of Dubuque), Joshua Bowar (Sioux Center Christian School), Brian L'Heureux (Valley Lutheran School), Patty Lansink (Diocese of Sioux City), Lee Morrison (Davenport Diocese)

Attendees: Holly Barnes, Steve Crew, Pam McDonnell, Geri McMahon, Isbelia Arzola, Tom Cooley, Carla Schimelfenig, Amy Williamson, Thomas Mayes, Kelly Kohout (Diocese of Sioux City), Donna Bishop (Diocese of Des Moines)

1. Welcome (Kim Hermsen and Dave Tilly)
  - a. Introduction
  
2. Public Services in Nonpublic Buildings (Tom Cooley and Carla Schimelfenig)
  - a. Previously teachers from an LEA could be on a nonpublic campus, band for example, and public school was able to count them to receive state funding. Tom Cooley noted that this was not an allowable service anymore as part of a code correction. Now alignment of the two sections of code 256.1 and 256.7. Public school teachers can go to nonpublic buildings, but students are not counted for funding to the public district. Note: Nonpublic shared time (nonpublic students on public grounds), special education or Title I services (public teacher on nonpublic grounds) is allowable.

It was asked how this change was communicated to public and nonpublic schools? It was communicated through legislative channels and the DE didn't anticipate it would be controversial. The nonpublic advisory, however, stated this did directly impact programs and students. The nonpublic advisory committee asked to be part of the communication in the future with code corrections that could impact our schools.

It was requested that an agenda item for next meeting be on special education services that may take place on nonpublic property to best meet the needs of students and more efficiently utilize special education funding.

3. Changing Structures at the Department (Dave Tilly and Amy Williamson)  
New director, Ann Lebo began in March 2020 (during pandemic). The new organizational structure was shared with the committee. Amy will be the new deputy

director and Shan Sievert will be the chief of staff. Thomas Mayes was promoted to general counsel last month.

4. Nonpublic Advisory Committee Rules (Thomas Mayes)
  - a. Review Purpose - Thomas shared a link to Iowa Code 256.15 - Nonpublic School Advisory Committee rules (<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/2020/256.15.pdf>). Reviewed the duties of the committee per Iowa Code. Advocating for nonpublic schools is also one of the duties assigned to the committee.
5. English Language Support (Pam McDonnell)
  - a. Public district support to nonpublic - Funding available for nonpublic schools for ELL students? How nonpublic schools report their English language learners for weighted funding? Iowa Code 281-60.5 states "English as a second language and transitional bilingual programs offered by a public school district shall be made available to students attending an accredited nonpublic school located within the district. The district obtains funding for such students in accordance with Iowa Code sections 257.31 "j" and 280.4"
  - b. Thomas Mayes - this is outside of the code correction. There is specific funding available for ELL students. Thus, public schools can get funds to provide these services.
  - c. How do students get the .22 weighting? How are the nonpublic students counted/reported? Pam is working with Shelly Neese (at the Department) on students being counted. Is this a question for Tom Cooley? Where is this .22 weighting sitting? Do public schools get it automatically? What should the process be to communicate and provide services?

Amy Williamson would like to have this discussion with staff at the Department (Amy, Pam, Dave, and Thomas) and bring this back in December with further clarification.

6. DeVos Cares Act Letter (Sent to Chief State School Officers on 9/25/20)  
<http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/Secretary%20DeVos%20Letter%20to%20Chief%20State%20School%20Officers%2009%2025%202020.pdf>
  - a. Funding was sent out to chief state school officers. There were court injunctions on the rules on how nonpublic proportionate was shared. The Department sent the funding out to all public schools as soon as possible using one of two interpretations of the formula. On September 25, Betsy DeVos sent a one-page letter regarding a ruling on proportionate share. Per an email to all state departments, calculations are to be based on Title 1 funding formula.. All funds have been sent out to public schools. The Department did set aside ten percent of other funding and will use these funds to make "whole" for the nonpublic schools. The nonpublic administrators on the committee expressed sincere gratitude for the Department's good faith efforts. Nonpublics won't see any change as we've done consultations. This "backfill" will be worked on the public school side.

## 7. Questions and Answers

Discuss the concerns to Title II funding - rolling over funds for professional development for 2020-21. Even though 10% can be rolled over for federal programs, it's a challenge for some schools to utilize these funds in the midst of a pandemic effectively. Some schools have 2018-19 and 2019-20 dollars left in addition to 2020-21 funds available to use. Some public schools also have similar concerns. June 2021 will not be an ideal time for new professional development initiatives due to teacher workload and exhaustion. We can plan for contingencies; however, we don't know if the USDE will adjust guidelines.

New Leadership Standards - rules will be at the November State Board meeting. School Administrators of Iowa have requested that the rules take effect on July 1, 2021.

Carryover Funds: Isbelia said it is in CASA but we can send her a request of school names and she can send it by year.

Teacher shortages are real for this school year 2020-21. Incentives at the college level to get more interested in teacher education.

Next Meeting: December 8, 2020

Proposed Topics:

- Special Education:
  - Services happening on nonpublic sites with LEA teachers.
  - Consultative model of provided services.
  - Release of Special Education allocations
- EL State Funding
  - How is .22 funding generated?
  - How can services be offered?
- Title Program Carryover