



## Wayne County Parent Advisory Committee

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**Angela Khater** Chairperson, **Jessica Owulette**, Chair-Elect  
**Melissa Richardson**, Secretary **Lisa-Marie Bailey**, Treasurer

### MEETING MINUTES

February 12, 2026

#### Call to Order

Angela Khater called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. A quorum of members were present.

#### Members' Present: -

|                                           |                                                   |                                      |                                        |                              |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Angela Khater – Dearborn                  | Lisa-Marie Bailey-Wayne-Westland                  | Jessica Owulette-Plymouth Scholars   | Melissa Richardson- Allen Park         | Kara Clarke - Livonia        |
| Barbara Young-Dearborn Heights District 7 | Natalie Rinaldi-Taylor School District            | Samara Wolf-Taylor Public            | Heather Hogg-Northville Public Schools | Jennifer Smith-Redford Union |
| Amie Conrad-Allen Park                    | LaTeesha Curry-Detroit Academy of Arts & Sciences | Ashley Johnson-PCCS                  | Mandee Ordaz-Northville Public Schools | Bethany Gomillion-Redford    |
| Sandra Borgne-Lincoln Park                | Tracee Winston-South Redford                      | Betrina Thomas-Detroit Merit Academy | Amanda Rock-Tipton Academy             | Sharene Nathan-DPSCD         |

#### Members Excused:

**Guests Present:** Katie Elliott, Mary Sunisloe- Wayne Westland, Beth Kohler- Special Education Mediation Services, Dara Wilson- Detroit, Heba Takouz- Statewide Parent Mentor, Jayme Anderson- Taylor Schools, Linda Harris- Taylor Schools, Safa Ashaweh- The Dearborn Academy, Lisa Andersen-Livonia, Ronilton Pereira de Magalhaes- Silver Spring,

**RESA Representatives:** Beth Santer, Celeste Johnson

#### *Dates to Remember*

| <i>Dates to Remember</i> |                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>April 9th 2026</i>    | <i>Virtual</i>                 |
| <i>April 16th 2026</i>   | <i>Special Recognition</i>     |
| <i>May 14, 2026</i>      | <i>Last meeting- In Person</i> |

#### I. Approval of Agenda

A copy of the meeting agenda was emailed and posted to the website for members in advance and made available at the meeting. A motion was made by Melissa Richardson and seconded by

Samara Wolf to accept the agenda. Motion was supported by a majority of members present. No objections were made.

Objections: \_\_\_\_\_

## II. Approval of Minutes

A copy of the meeting minutes from the November meeting was emailed and posted to the website for members in advance. Approval of minutes first motion Kara Clarke and second motion Samara Wolf.

Objections: \_\_\_\_\_

## III. Presentation

### **Understanding Specific Learning Disabilities: A Parent's Guide**

**Presenter:** Katie Elliott, MA, NCSP- Special Education Consultant

1. **Start with a teacher-** share concerns, ask what a teacher is noticing academically and behaviorally. Request data
2. **Questions to ask-** How is my child compared to grade-level expectations? What interventions have been tried? How is my child making progress?
- **MTSS vs. Special Education: What's the Difference?**  
Multi-tiered system of supports.
  - Tier I- Core Standards-Based Learning (80-90%) (General Education)
  - Tier II- Strategic Needs-Based Learning (10-15%) (Building Level Teams)
  - Tier III - Intensive Scientific-Needs-Based Learning (5-10%) (Student Support Teams)
  - Tier IV - Specialized Learning (1-5%) (Specialized, Individualized Learning)Special Education (13 areas they can qualify for) Examples would be Autism Spectrum Disorder, Speech and Language Impairment, Cognitive Impairment, and/or Emotional Impairment, etc.
- **MTSS & Special Education: How They Work Together**  
MTSS data can inform special education evaluations  
A student can move from MTSS to Special Education if needed  
Interventions cannot be used to delay an evaluation when disability is suspected.
- **What Testing Can Parents Expect for a SLD Evaluation?**  
Cognitive testing
  - Great visual in powerpoint for WPPSI-IV & WISC-IV domain summaryAcademic Achievement Testing  
Processing Assessments  
Social Emotional/Behavioral Screening  
Speech & Language Evaluation (if suspected)
- **How is Eligibility for SLD Determined?**  
PSW- Patterns of Strengths and Weaknesses
  - An approach to SLD identification that looks for a pattern of cognitive strengths and weaknesses linked to academic deficits
  - Focuses on internal consistency: does the student show a specific learning profile, not global deficits?Used to identify SLD when:
  - There is a significant academic weakness (e.g., reading, math, writing)
  - There are cognitive weaknesses related to the academic deficit

- The student also shows cognitive strengths in other areas, ruling out global delay

Wayne County Approach:

- Uses CHC theory as the foundation for PSW analysis
  - Looks for a theoretically sound and empirically supported link between cognitive and academic performance
  - Aims to support data-based, equitable, and legally defensible eligibility decisions
- **From My Heart and My Practice**
    - Communication long before requesting an evaluation
    - Request a draft of the report and IEP before the meeting
    - Request an agenda
    - Write down your questions and priorities
    - Bring a photo of your child
    - Strengths first
    - Bring someone with you
    - Stay engaged throughout the year
    - Keep communication open
    - Trust your instincts

#### **IV. Chairperson Report**

Please review the Member Folder on Google Drive. Remind app classrooms for WCPAC are @wcpacmem for WCPAC members and @wcpacmtg for the general public.

#### **V. Chair Elect Report**

If you have not received the link for the Google Drive, or are having difficulty accessing it, please contact Jessica Owulette, so she can give you access to the information you need. The roster has been updated, and please remember that this information is confidential. Jessica also mentioned the Remind App. If you are newly appointed, or any information has changed, please see Jessica to confirm that your information is correct.

#### **VI. Secretary Report**

If you need business cards, please contact Melissa Richardson. Please make sure you sign in at each meeting you attend. This is not just for minute purposes, but also for year-end mileage reimbursement (only applies for in-person meetings).

#### **VII. Treasurer Report**

The account balance is \$1808.40. Thanking many members for everything they do.

#### **VIII. Subcommittee Reports**

Jessica Owulette- April 16, 2026 Special Recognition Awards- In person RESA Auditorium.

Mandee Ordaz asked if we had an invitation that we can send out to those that are nominated. She also asked if we can nominate more than one person. She also wanted to know if it was virtual also. Angela Khater stated that we are coming up with the invitation and will be sending that out shortly. Angela & Kara stated that each school district is allowed two nominations. Angela also let her know that it's in person only for Special Recognition.

Please read the subcommittee description (found in the member folder on the Google Drive) and

consider signing up! Please reach out.

[Subcommittee Sign Up - click here!](#)

## **IX. RESA Reports**

Beth Santer

### **RESA report given by Beth Santer.**

We have a lot of great things happening across the county.

Shoutout to Kara, Celeste, and Kate Pearson for presenting recently at Parent Camp in Northville. Mandy and Heather from Northville, and Ashley from Plymouth-Canton supported the PAC table.

Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) and Personal Curriculum guidance presentations continue across districts. Dr. Sandra Brock developed an MTSS FAQ to help clarify questions teams are asking in the field.

Wayne RESA's WCPAC has now released 12 podcast episodes. Beth, Celeste, and Theresa were invited to be guests on the *Getting to the Core* Wayne RESA Podcast in recognition of the 50th anniversary of IDEA. The episode hasn't dropped yet, but we'll be sure to share it when it does.

Dr. Kelly Anderson is also developing an LRE rubric to help teams make strong placement decisions for students newly eligible for special education.

Our consultants remain incredibly busy so far this year, they've delivered 160 presentations in local districts and 32 at conferences both in-state and out-of-state. Kate Pearson is presenting today at an Assessment Conference.

Overall, our team continues to show up in big ways, making sure special education voices are heard across various systems and settings.

## **X. Member Report**

Kara Clarke stated one of her personal favorite training that Michigan Alliance does is called LIPA. There is a link at <https://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/lipa/> The application closes at the end of February.

## **XI. Public Reports**

Beth Kohler- SEMS. She wanted to acknowledge all the work we do and that SEMS is always here for us if we need their support. Listen to a podcast about what services they have and how they can support us.

## **XII. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Kara Clarke and seconded by Samara Wolf to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m. Motion passed by majority present. No objections were made.

***The next WCPAC meeting is scheduled VIRTUALLY for April 9th 6:30 PM***