

# Maine Association of School Psychologists

## GPR Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

- **Welcome**
- **Attendees:** Ruth Crowell, President; Suzanne Jones, members; Suzanne Botana, member; Kathy Gillis, Co-chair; and Mary MacLennan, member, Hilarie Kennedy, Co-chair (arrived late)
- **Consent Agenda (Action needed) 5 minutes**
  - Minutes from 1/12/2021
  - Can we move to approving the minutes after the meeting via email? Saving time.
  - Emailed out 2/7/2021

Motion: SB - move to approve the minutes

Seconded: KG

Vote: unanimous

### GPR Committee Goals:

- Update Resources on the website
- Create a structure for advocacy action items.
  - Solidify paths for legislative and policy information to come to us and be filtered
  - Develop paths for disseminating information and/or tasks through listservs or other means.
- Intentionally incorporate social justice themes into all actions taken by the committee.
- Work on developing a relationship with the Maine Principals Association
- SPAW advocacy

### Discussion Items:

- **Review New Committee Structures Document 10 minutes**

**Discussion:** Raise your hand, make it clear why we have member input and members attending a committee meeting. Definition of terms - what is a committee member? What do we want to get out of the meeting minutes? Recommendation to put it as an attachment - rather than the constant wordsmithing.

- **Website - Review mock-up, discuss editing suggestions 15 minutes**

Mockup for the **website** and providing information, advocacy, and links to information on the website. Need to cull resources that are in the folder - will do this individual and bring a product back to the group. There needs to be a page for advocacy and it needs to be organized and easily accessible. ([2021 Website update](#)) [GPR-MASP](#)

**Discussion:** There is a LOT of resources in stuff in the folders. We need to come up with some headings to guide where we want to post all of the resources. GPR should have specific things that are on the website. A recommendation was made to work on it either separately and come back to a group or have a separate work day to just target this. What is the problem and how do we want to solve it? We can also share our information and resources in folders with the other committees. We just need to try to make things easily accessible to

folks and searchable on the website. We need to provide information on how to participate in hearings in the legislature. We also need something to tell members exactly how they can participate in the committee hearings. You can listen to the legislative committee meetings - archived on the Maine.gov website. There is the orientation as part of these hearings, which provides an opportunity to learn how to participate.

Next step: work session - when and how long?

Motion: SB - move to work on the website in a separate work session.

Discussion: how to get orientation information on legislative process/bills to members sooner rather than later, Kathy G suggested that we have a work day in April during the school vacation in order to tackle this job.

Seconded: KG -

Vote: unanimous

- o **Advocacy Action Plan** - Specify steps for identifying and acting on legislative bills of interest for the current session [20-21 Legislative Bills PUBLIC HEARINGS.docx](#)

**20 minutes**

- What sources have we gathered bills from as of now?
- Are there bills we want to act on for this session?
- If yes, develop an action plan

**Discussion:** Do we want to "bundle" legislation? Define what we are looking to advocate for? What do we stand for? Maine Data Book - provides all of the stats "Kids Count" published by Maine's Children Alliance, contact for this information is Rita Furlow. This will help give us information for getting behind legislation. We need to be more specific - then tell members where to find all of this information so that they can weigh in on any legislation that MASP is getting behind. We need to prioritize our goals. How do we do this effectively, without overwhelming one person. Work committees? How broad a net do we want to cast? Or do we want to narrow the focus? For the MASP membership to participate in legislative action - how do we give them the information that they need to be able to do this. What information do they REALLY need? Recruit a group that may want to act on a bill? Have a pool of people to draw from? An Ad Hoc committee? A Task Force? Can it be a group of students? What do we want to do this legislative session?

**Goal for the Committee:** we will have 3 pieces of legislation/bills that the membership will engage in this legislative session.

Who do we need to partner with? DOE/Erin Frazier? What are you focusing on? MADSEC does not have anything right now that they are focused on. Do we want to reach out to other groups to see what they are focusing on? NAMI?

Reaching out: Suzanne J to Children's Alliance, Ruth to NAMI, Mary to DOE/Erin

Motion: RC- to move the GPR Committee meeting to the 4th week of the month at 5:30

Discussion: Moving the committee meetings to another week so it does not follow the EB meeting the night before - looking at the 4th week which would make the next meeting March 23rd at 5:30 PM.

Seconded: KG

Vote: Unanimous

Tabled until next meeting:

- **School Psych Shortage:** Motion made to put together an action plan for how we tackle this. **10 minutes**
  - Review proposal offered by Kathy Gillis, determine action steps ([Proposal to work on shortages](#))
  - While the work on recruitment and retention is valuable, it is curious to me as to why the GPR committee is engaged in this and so this was questioned at the committee meeting. Could an explanation as to why it is the work of the GPR committee (versus Membership or Prof Standards, or ad-hoc....)
  - With regards to why we are not on the list for Maine - from Erin Frazier: the feds only let us report certain categories anyway. In other words, they would have restricted us from reporting that because the information is tied to certification and high education student loans somehow. It's complicated, but we wouldn't have been able to report it anyway. The good news is that EVERYONE knows that there is a critical shortage in this area. And that the ME DOE is working hard to remedy that issue.

Motion: RC to adjourn meeting 6:45 PM

Seconded: SJ

Vote: unanimous

**Next Meeting: March 23.2021 @ 5:30PM**