



**Meeting Scribe:** Jenni Anderson

<b>Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<p><b>Gavel-in, Welcome, &amp; Roll Call</b></p> <p><b>9:00 a.m.</b></p> <p><i>AABSS Advisory Group Interim Chair</i></p>	<p>The Advisory Group Chair began the meeting with a group welcome then moved on to roll call.</p> <p><b>Meeting Agenda</b> 11.20.2024_AABSS Advisory Public Agenda.pdf</p> <p><b>Meeting Slidedeck</b> AABSS Advisory Group Meeting 11.20.2024 Slidedeck.pdf</p> <p><b>September 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes</b> AABSS Advisory Group Meeting Minutes 9.18.24.pdf</p>
<p><b>Icebreaker/ Community Building</b></p> <p><b>9:10 a.m.</b></p> <p><i>AABSS Advisory Group Vice-Chair</i></p>	<p>The Vice-Chair opened the icebreaker and community builder:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Member name</li> <li>● Hometown</li> <li>● Position</li> <li>● Favorite two artists</li> </ul>
<p><b>Review and Approval of February Meeting Minutes</b></p> <p><b>9:35 a.m.</b></p> <p><i>AABSS Advisory Group Interim Chair</i></p>	<p>The group reviewed the September 2024 Meeting Minutes and then passed a motion to approve.</p>

**OEDI Assistant  
Superintendent  
Welcome**

**9:38 a.m.**

*Deborah Lange, OEDI  
Assistant  
Superintendent*

- The Accountability Report is not available yet, ODE is hoping to have Dr. Williams available to present these results in our December meeting.
- Public Meeting Laws (PML)
  - Under advisement from our legal counsel, ODE will now be subject to the PML again beginning in our December meeting.
    - All of our Advisory Group members are public servants, and as such this will be subject to the PML laws.
  - ODE will be posting our Agenda on several sites roughly a week prior to our meetings, and posting our Minutes within three weeks following the meeting.
  - ODE will have a public listen only call-in line. If there is public comment it will be submitted in writing to ODE and handled appropriately.
  - ODE is working to mitigate any safety concerns as best as possible and are always available to hold space for our members, please don't hesitate to reach out.
  - The intention is to bring greater accountability to students within our state, and will do our best to share our work with the public as required.
  - Any meeting of three or more Advisory Group members who are discussing substantive items relating to the group then it is subject to PML. This includes email communications as well.
    - The exception to that would be the Chair & Vice-Chair meeting that is purely to arrange the agenda items.
    - Also, community building and training portions of the meeting are not subject to the PML.
  - ODE is working to ensure the impact is minimal, and will inform our members ahead of time as information is made available to us.
  - Emails will bcc'ing members to reduce the number of communications and comply with the PML.
    - Members would like to see a memo from the DOJ before our next meeting in order to follow the instructions as closely as possible.
    - Clarification regarding public records request and PML:
      - All correspondence between ODE employees and Advisory Group members is subject to public records request.
      - PML would apply if there is a correspondence of three or more ODE employees or AG members and would require an agenda, minutes, etc.
    - The agency is still awaiting legal advice regarding the quorum requirement and will pass along further details as they are made available to us.
  - Members requested a crosswalk across the SSPs in order to understand how to better support our programs and students. If another state agency is discussing how to support for example Early Literacy across these programs, would that apply to these PML regulations?
    - That is a great question and ODE will be sure to bring that up for further clarification.
    - Some of our other programs break into smaller groups to meet outside of the official Advisory Group meeting, and legal counsel has informed ODE that these meetings would apply to PML if they are discussing the work relating to the program.
  - Question regarding public comment, will that be different?
    - ODE will allow public comment, but it won't be verbally during the meeting, it will be submitted in writing to ODE and it will be posted as

appropriate.

- ODE has student advisory group members in other SSPs, and we are still working to determine policies and procedures that will comply with PML while also protecting students.
- A member commented that this may cross over to the line where members are discouraged from speaking out when doing this work, and its roots can be traced back through a long history of discrimination.
- ODE has completed our evaluations for our next round of AABSS Grantees. It has not officially been released, as contracts are still pending, however we look forward to sharing that soon.
  - AABSS currently has 21 grantees for this four year grant cycle.
    - 18 are CBOs
    - 12-13 of those 21 grantees are brand new to this program, the process was very competitive and it is exciting to move forward into this new cycle.
  - Gratitude for all Advisory Group members who assisted with the review process.
  - Funding can be reimbursed back to October once their insurance and contracts are approved.
  - Of those who applied and were not selected, please feel free to reach out with any questions, comments and concerns and ODE will do our best to explain and assist as possible.
  - Member question: If there are a certain amount of grantee dollars available, but the number of applicants increases, what does that mean for the selection criteria moving forward? Does that reflect the growing need across our state? What advice or guidance can we offer as the need is growing? Especially for rural areas.
    - ODE did try to put priority points for organizations who serve rural communities. The agency is working to put together a heat map that shows where our communities are across the state, and how we can aim to better assist in all areas.
    - AABSS is the only group where it is in statute that is required to partner with our Advisory Group for input and feedback when determining priorities. Other SSPs don't hold to that per their statutory requirements as closely as AABSS.
      - Your feedback and the data ODE is able to gather from our community across the state is highly impactful.
      - The agency has the ability to work together to determine what areas of focus are most impactful to our students, and how these program dollars can be best spent in order to create forward progress.
  - A member voiced concern that some grantees are receiving funding from this program, but don't center their activities on this community, and are in truth serving a very small percentage of our community youth. Students in our community should not be an afterthought.
    - ODE has very strong accountability measures in place in order to do our best to prevent this from happening. This grant is for four years, but they are required to prove out each year what they are doing with the funding in order to renew the funding. The agency is doing their best to ensure that students are being served and results are being produced in reality, not simply on paper.

- Advisory Group members are always welcome to participate in program walk throughs in on-site visits in order to ensure that the work is being completed as intended for our students.
  - The voice of our Advisory Group members is very important as they have a unique place within your local community. Please always reach out with any concerns or input that would be helpful and important in order to move this work in a positive direction.
- Member inquiry: Is it possible to receive information regarding the demographics of what age groups are receiving funds? How did we work to ensure that grantees are serving AA/B students with these funds preemptively before contracting with them?
  - As soon as ODE has executed contracts they will be able to provide more detailed demographic information. The agency did give priority to Early Literacy grantees as that is an area that was under-represented previously and is working to create a more balanced approach.
    - Our funding for this program is for AA/B students. ODE is unable to say this funding is only for AA/B students, and upon reviewing past data we did notice a discrepancy based upon the number of community students who were being served.
  - ODE prioritizes the work that is being done and the students who are being served within this program are AA/B. However the agency cannot say funding is only for a certain community as that is discrimination. It is possible to say that all of the support and work that is being done through this program is geared specifically towards our community and serving our AA/B youth is the priority.
    - Member concern: Why is this being viewed as a new problem? We have been working on this issue within this group for several years and it doesn't feel as though there has been any actionable change. We are now spending even more of this program's funding on students who aren't AA/B.
    - Response: This has been the work ODE has been pushing forward for the last four years. Working with our DOJ counsel, we cannot restrict programs to only one community or ethnicity without opening up ODE as well as the partner programs up to a lawsuit.
      - Member voice:
        - This is possible, it simply comes down to the will and determination of the partner programs. Lawyers only interpret and give advice. The DOJ leans away from serving our community in order to err on the side of protecting the agency. In order to move forward we need to get it directly from the DOJ from the horse's mouth so we can read and interpret it for ourselves.
        - We can require data, but we need to push and make the agency collect these numbers. There has been a lack of this accountability in the past because there is a fear of opening up room for risk.
        - We don't need to say it is for an ethnicity only, we don't need to move towards that extreme. Right

now they are serving none. We can meet in the middle and not jump to the 'only' portion of the spectrum.

- Member voice:
  - There are some programs that do not serve a majority of our community, however the activities that they are funding with this program is going directly towards the students in our community that they do serve.
  - However some programs pull in community youth as an afterthought in order to qualify for this funding.
  - When reviewing the applications however we have to rely purely on the information that they provide.
  - This is leading to history repeating itself if we don't carry out some kind of site visits as part of the application process in order to mitigate this risk. We have been discussing this issue for years, and these problems are repeating themselves.
- ODE reply: This program began in 2015, and this is the first big RFA that has been completed in the last four years. All of the other funding has been a renewal. The agency is working to learn and adapt our policies and procedures as best possible in order to provide the best service to the most community youth across the state.
- Member concern:
  - What are we going to do now collectively as a community in order to ensure our protections are in place? We need to create a game plan so we aren't passed over. How will we ensure there is funding when the new administration takes office?
  - The bill that created this task force and this funding was from the Governor. ODE is here to facilitate this work, but they are not the leaders. We are here because the work is not being done and we need to push it forward using the tools we have available. We acquire the information we request from the DOJ, and we review the past learning of this committee.
    - Member input, we need to push for a AABSS Program Coordinator replacement, it's unacceptable that this program has not been instated yet. How can this work move forward without a Program Coordinator?
    - Members pushed for an update on these topics for next steps before the next monthly meeting.
    - Members suggest sending a letter to the

head of ODE stating that these requests have been made repeatedly and nothing has been done. Then it is in the public record that we are not being heard and no action has been taken.

- Multiple members voiced desire for the Chair to pen the letter on behalf of the group.
  - One member volunteered their organization to draft the letter on behalf of the group.
- Member clarification: ODE oversees all of these program Advisory Groups. It has been brought to the members' attention that not all groups are receiving uniform and fair treatment. Will these stipulations be made to all of the Advisory Groups? How will that impact our program? Does the LGBTQ2SIA+ program only serve LGBTQ2SIA+ youth? What about the Native American program?
  - ODE Response: The DOJ clarification request has been made across the board from all programs. The way in which the LGBTQ2SIA+ youth are being served is slightly different only because we don't have the ability to acquire student data based on safety. The program cannot require specifically that they are only serving program youth, and we can also not determine those demographics per student privacy and safety.
    - This will be the first year we are going to pilot data from across all of our SSP programs. And we will be utilizing that in order to better ensure all programs are serving their community youth as effectively as possible.
- Member input: We don't need to specifically state programs or activities are 'only' anything. We simply need to ensure that the programs that are receiving funding are serving the correct populations. It is not about extremes, it is about ensuring program protocols are serving the proper communities.
- Member concern:
  - We need to work to support the staff who are creating relationships with students and managing the microaggressions on a daily basis. We are adults, but these students are living it daily. Funding programs in rural areas, and then not continuing the support causes harm. They become accustomed to these supports, and then when they disappear it sends a very negative message. How can they focus on school tasks when there are very visible signs of aggression that they are dealing with? We need to be aware of this.
  - It's not just microaggressions, it's macroaggressions. What is

	<p>ODE doing about it? Even in Salem it's happening, it's not just rural areas. What steps are being taken? There was an ODE hotline in the past, but that was years ago and we haven't seen any other steps taken since then. We want data on that in these meetings. How many calls are we receiving? Where are these calls coming from? What training is ODE providing? What is the DOJ doing about these issues? Do we need to go to our Legislature in order to make something happen at ODE? It's not just our communities either, and nothing is being done.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Multiple members reiterate this sentiment. Voiced that ODE had a Civil Rights Specialist come in, but still there is no actionable change. Our students are being profiled and we as the only AA/B Advisory Group are not doing anything about this. If we're not doing anything about it then no one else will.</li> <li>○ ODE response: The agency brings no excuses. We are a locally run state, which means a lot of power sits within the School District at the School Board level. As the legislature sits currently, ODE cannot override the local level. ODE can only step in when the system has exhausted the steps within local level mitigation. There are many areas in which we need to initiate change, and the agency hears the level of frustration. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Member voice: Members know the structures are meant for our failure. Staff at ODE need to adhere in order to keep their jobs. As advisory group members we don't need to adhere, it is explicitly our job to ensure we push back against this system as it is built to keep things exactly as they are. The committee wants ODE to step up and voice this is not allowable, they have a voice and power that is not being utilized. However, if ODE won't, then it is the responsibility of these members to expressly push back against these harmful systems.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Members shout out to one of our Advisory Group members who was honored recently for the work that they have been doing. What they had to say was extremely powerful.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Adjourn</b></p> <p><b>11:15 a.m.</b></p>	

**Next Meeting:** December 18, 2024, 9:00 - 11:00