

PASE Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2025

Kent ISD Thornapple Room

Members Present: Heather Bright, Amanda Dill, Kara Flowers, Katie Foote, Kassie Franklin, Rachael George, Marie Griffie, Jennie Kamyszek, Lindsey Kloeckner, Aryn Manni, Maria Mora-Bowen, Casie Sultana, Victor Sultana

Guests: Caroline Breault-Cannon, Sarah Dawson, Jennifer Gard, Jenny Gauld, Sheree Harmon, Katie Hollis, Rukshana Ilahi, Jenn Kallman, Stephanie Malski, Veola McFerrin-Nelson, Erin Purdy

Excused: Joe Courtney, Vanessa Gonzalez, Esmina Hamzagic

- I. Welcome and Introductions (9 new attendees!)
- II. Approve Minutes from April 25, 2025
 - A. Jody Bajko
 - B. Cassie Franklin
- III. Introduce PASE officers
 - A. Aryn Manni - Chairperson
 - B. Karen Schwedler - Vice Chairperson
 - C. Lindsey Kloeckner - Secretary
 - D. Upcoming officer elections @ next meeting
 - E. Roles & responsibilities
 - F. Any PASE rep can be an officer
- IV. PASE Representatives
- V. Updated PASE Bylaws
 - A. Last updated 9/9/2002
 - B. Finalized updated bylaws will be provided at next meeting
- VI. PASE Priorities for 2025-2026
 - A. Accommodations outside the scope of the IEP: drivers training, clubs, etc.
 - B. Unified Champions Schools
 - C. Caseloads / responsible expectations/decisions on staffing for students
 - D. IEP tips & tricks / workshopping / collaboration
 - E. Difference between medical/school diagnosis & eligibility
 - F. Programs offered @ KISD
 - G. Local and state connections for government policy change
 - H. Understanding LRE
 - I. Social opportunities for students w/ disabilities
 - J. Transitions to middle/high school: COC and diploma
 - K. IEP transition from preschool to school age
 - L. IEP staff input
 - M. Community resources
 - 1. MI Alliance for Families / Special Education Mediation services
- VII. Community Spotlight: Easterseals MORC w/ Melissa VanDyke

A. Provide multiple services

1. Adult & Children Behavioral Health Services
2. Autism Evaluation Services
3. MDHSS Trauma Assessments
4. AgrAbility
5. BCBS / BCN Specialty Behavioral Health Services
6. Priority Health Community Care Management Program
7. Outpatient, Individual and Family Group Therapy
8. Autism Evaluation Services
9. Qualify mental health diagnosis and/or autism
10. In home respite

VIII. Current State of Special Education, Kirsten Myers, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services

A. Current KISD Plan (2018)

B. Cooperative Agreement: Renewed Annually

C. MDE has challenged KISD to focus on the following things:

1. MDE Capacity Building (LRE)
2. Graduation / Drop-out: Transition planning
3. Need to increase all educators understanding of FAPE in the LRE
4. Improve Early Childhood Placement decisions
5. LRE Specific needs
6. Virtual learning and discipline
7. Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) / Parent Advisory for Special Education (PASE)

D. What's next: Launching strategic plan goals aligned to the Development of continuous improvement plan

E. Focus on an increased use of flexible curriculum to address low graduation rates for Kent County.

F. Focus on extracurricular & non-academic

1. Accommodations & supports
 - a) Supplementary aids, services and modifications at no cost to the parents
 - b) Accommodations even w/ disability-related behaviors.
2. Districts can deny if:
 - a) Modification fundamentally alters program
 - b) Student poses a direct safety threat
 - c) Create undue financial burden against district's overall budget

G. KISD 3-year Strategic Plan (2025-2028)

1. Strategic directions:
 - a) Advancing Inclusive & Equitable Learning Environments
 - b) Strengthening Transitions and Lifelong Success Pathways
 - c) Student Transitions and Independence

IX. Next Meeting: November 17, 2025