



**Wayne County Parent Advisory Committee**

33500 Van Born Road  
Wayne, MI 48184-2497  
(734) 334-1493 or (734) 334-1476  
Fax: (734) 334-1494

**MEETING MINUTES**

April, 2025

**Call to Order**

Celester Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:39p.m. A quorum of members was present.

**Members Present:** -

Samara Wolf	LaTeesha Curry	Mandee Ordaz	Angela Khater
Heather Collins			
Sandy Borgne	Tracee Winston	Lisa Marie Bailey	Bertina Thomas
Jessica Owuletter	Tenisha Williams	Kara Clarke	Lindsey Ivan

**Members Excused:** Sharene Nathan

**Guests Present:** Dara Wilson, Heba Takouz, Darlene Heard-Thomas, Suzie Roberts, Samantha Bridges, Lillie Loder

**RESA Representatives:** Theresa Franklin, Celeste Johnson, Kim Krug, Vita Lusk,

***Dates to Remember***

<i>April 17, 2025 Special Recognition</i>	<i>6:30pm VIRTUAL link will be forthcoming</i>
<i>May 8, 2025 Regular Meeting</i>	<i>In Person - last WCPAC meeting for the 25-26 year</i>

**I. Approval of Agenda**

Since we did not meet quorum during the February meeting, the April minutes are being approved during this meeting where quorum has been met. A copy of the February agenda was emailed and posted to the website for members in advance and made available at the meeting. A motion was made by Samara Wolf and seconded by LaTeesha Curry to accept the agenda. Motion was supported by a majority of members present. No objections were made.

A copy of the meeting April agenda was emailed and posted to the website for members in advance and made available at the meeting. A motion was made by Jessica Owulette 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**

Since we did not meet quorum during the February meeting, the January minutes are being approved during this meeting where quorum has been met. A copy of the January meeting minutes from the last meeting was emailed and posted to the website for members in advance. A motion was made by Samara Wolf and seconded by Tenisha Williams to accept the minutes. Motion was supported by a majority of members present. No objections were made.

A copy of the February meeting minutes from the last meeting was emailed and posted to the website for members in advance. A motion was made by Tracee Winston and seconded by Tenisha Williams to accept the minutes. Motion was supported by a majority of members present. No objections were made.

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

### III. Presentation

**Kim Krug, Special Education Consultant, Wayne RESA**

Topic: Neurodiversity

Awareness vs Acceptance: [October 2021 START Connecting newsletter: When Words Matter](#)

Ties Center: Dimensions of Belonging: [Creating Communities of Belonging for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities](#)

[Neurodiversity Strengths Checklist](#)

START Resources:

- [Autism, Acceptance Advocacy, and Action](#)
- [START Connecting: When Words Matter](#) (April 2021)
- [START Connecting: Inclusion and Advocacy Resources for April and Beyond](#) (March 2022)
- [START Critical Questions](#)

**Kara Clarke and Samara Wolf** reviewed roles and responsibilities of the following Executive Board positions:

Chair, Co-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer

Special election for nominations will occur at the May 2025 meeting.

A motion was made by Kara Clarke and seconded by Samara Wolf to begin accepting nominations for elections for Executive Board for the 25-26 school year. Objections: None

Co-Chair: Jessica Owulette - Jessica nominated Jessica for the Co-Chair position

Treasurer: Lisa-Marie Bailey - Lisa-Marie nominated Lisa-Marie for the Co-Chair position

Motion was supported by a majority of members present. No objections were made.

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

### IV. Chairperson Report

As a reminder, during the January meeting it was suggested and agreed upon by members that the WCPAC temporarily transfer the EB responsibility to Wayne RESA. During the May meeting the WCPAC will hold elections which will allow the new EB to work with RESA over the summer to learn their new roles and responsibilities. This will help strengthen the WCPAC overall. Kara Clarke and Samara Wolf will lead the election subcommittee.

Rock the Spectrum - Novi <https://werockthespectrumnovi.com/events/>

We Rock the Spectrum is located in Novi and was founded to provide a place for children of all ability levels to play and grow together. This is a kid's only gym that offers an inclusive philosophy, with uniquely designed sensory equipment that is specifically designed to aid children with sensory processing disorders. However, all children are able to benefit greatly from this equipment and by allowing children of all ability levels to play together they are able to learn a great deal from each other and become the best motivation for success on every level.

If you are aware of a conference that would be beneficial to families of students receiving special education support, please feel free to share that information! Feel free to email Vita, Celeste, or Theresa.

#### **V. Vice Chairperson Report**

If you have not received the link for the Google Drive or if any of your contact information has changed, please contact Vita, Celeste, or Theresa.

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

If you need business cards, please contact Vita, Celeste, or Theresa. Please make sure you sign in at each meeting you attend, 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 \$1,808.40.

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

***We need your help!***

Please read the subcommittee descriptions (found in the member folder on the Google Drive or by clicking [here](#)) and consider signing up! [Subcommittee Sign Up - click here!](#)

#### **Special Recognition Subcommittee**

Special Recognition is being held on Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm via Zoom. Please utilize the WCPAC background during this special event.

#### **IX. RESA Reports**

##### **Community of Practice**

##### **What is a Community of Practice?**

A CoP is a group of individuals who share a common interest or goal, and who learn together through regular interaction and collaboration to improve their practices and outcomes.

##### **Why is a CoP important?**

Educational communities of practice are essential for fostering

Collaboration, innovation in teaching and learning, supportive networks, and professional development opportunities.

##### **Community of Practice (CoP) Groups**

- Early On COP and L ICC
- SAT CoP-Secondary Adult Transition Community of Practice
- Assistive Technology High and Low Incidence
- School psychologist CoP

- SLP CoP
- SSW
- OT/PT CoP
- POHI Task Force CoP
- VI/DHH taskforce
- Behavior Specialist CoP
- Resource Fridays

### **Addressing the Critical Shortage Work**

#### **WRESA continues its commitment to Preparing, Attracting, and Retaining special education staff:**

For the last few years, Wayne RESA has partnered with WSU & CMU to implement a para to teacher program for candidates to earn endorsements in ASD, CI, and POHI

Wayne RESA and GVSU also have a partnership in which current teachers have been enrolled in the Director program.

At this time, we have approximately Wayne County staff enrolled in these partnership programs to address the critical shortage and meet the needs of our students.

### **X. Member Report**

Kara Clarke is now working for Michigan Alliance for Families: [kara@michiganallianceforfamilies.org](mailto:kara@michiganallianceforfamilies.org)  
734-655-0389 <https://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/upcoming-events/>

### **XI. Public Reports**

Dara Wilson - Michigan Alliance for Families

May 15th Parent Advisory Committee: <https://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/2025-05-15-Parent-Advisory-Committees-Choosing-Topics-ACC.pdf>

April 17th Building Parent Leadership specific to Early Childhood:  
<https://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/2025-05-15-Parent-Advisory-Committees-Choosing-Topics-ACC.pdf>

### **XII. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Kara Clarke and seconded by Samara Wolf to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

***The next WCPAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in person.***