PRESS RELEASE

SOUTH DAKOTA LEGISLATURE
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Special Education Interim Legislative Committee Membership Finalized

PIERRE – Eight South Dakotans representing the education sector and the public have been selected to serve on a legislative interim committee studying the cost and coordination of special education services in the state.

Appointed by the Office of the Governor and the South Dakota Department of Education as non-legislative members of the Special Education Interim Legislative Committee are: Sarah Carda, parent; Jennifer Conway, business manager, Harrisburg School District; Tom Culver, superintendent, Avon School District; Lorrie Esmay, superintendent, Jones County School District; Dr. Michelle Greseth, SPED director, Sisseton School District; Dan Martin, Superintendent, Timber Lake School District; Dr. Kari Oyen, faculty member, University of South Dakota; and Neil Putnam, school board member, Mitchell School Board.

Five legislators and one advocate were named to the committee by the Executive Board of the SD Legislature at its April 23, 2019 meeting. Those appointed by the Executive Board are: Rep. Nancy Rasmussen (chair), Sen. Jim Bolin (vice chair), Rep. Fred Deutsch, Rep. Sue Peterson, Rep. Ray Ring, and John Hamilton, advocate, Disability Rights South Dakota.

The Special Education Interim Legislative Committee was authorized by the passage of Senate Bill 3. Among the issues to be reviewed are the assessment tools used to define disabilities, categories of disabilities, and costs of providing services. Committee information including agendas, minutes, and full membership is available online at Special Education Interim Legislative Committee.

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