

MASE New Leaders Cohort  
March 10, 2021  
Virtual Session

Session Facilitator

Heidi Nistler  
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Heidi Nistler is the Director of Special Education for the Sherburne and Northern Wright Special Education Cooperative. Prior to this position, Heidi was a Special Services Supervisor and then Assistant Director for Shakopee Public Schools. While Heidi has directly overseen all programming from birth through age 21 (and everything in between), what really geeks her out is special education finance and anything that can be put into a spreadsheet.

Ann Bettenburg  
MASE Retiree  
Retired Director of Student Services, Mounds View Public Schools  
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Ann retired from the Mounds View Public Schools in 2017, she was with the district for 26 years first as a special education coordinator and then as the director. Prior to her time in Mounds View, she was at MDE as an early childhood special education state specialist and a rules and policy development specialist, and taught at St Cloud State University and University of Minnesota-Duluth in their special education departments with a focus on ECSE. Ann has also been an adjunct faculty member at the University of Minnesota and St. Thomas University teaching classes in ECSE. Ann has taught in the classroom with DCD and then ECSE students and has had the incredible opportunity to travel nationally and internationally consulting in the area of ECSE.

Laura Tubbs Booth  
Partner  
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Laura Tubbs Booth is a partner at Ratwik, Roszak & Maloney. She has represented school districts over 25 years and is the recipient of the 2019 Minnesota Association of

Special Educators' Distinguished Service Award. Laura focuses much of her work with schools in Minnesota and North Dakota on preventive law and the practical application of the law. She has represented clients in administrative proceedings and in state and federal courts including the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court.

Laura routinely advises clients on all areas of education law, including special education and other student issues; discrimination; data practices and open meeting matters; employment issues; investigation of employment and child maltreatment issues; policy development, training and coaching in the human resources/employment area. Laura has successfully represented Minnesota schools in several cases that have shaped education law in Minnesota. Laura is a frequent presenter and trainer for school districts and charter schools.

Before coming to Ratwik, Roszak, & Maloney, Laura was the Founder and Managing Partner of Booth Law, LLC. She was also a partner at Rider Bennett, LLP and the Executive Director of Human Resource Services for the Wayzata Public Schools. During law school, Laura was a member of the Silver Gavel Society, Law Review and received a Dean's Academic Scholarship for each of her three years. Laura also received a March of Dimes Scholarship for her public service in college.

When not representing clients, Laura is active in teaching adaptive skiing during the winter, and hiking, biking and cabin time in the summer.

Scott Hare  
Director of Student Special Services  
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Scott Hare, Director of Student Support Services for Mankato Area Public Schools since July 2017. Scott has over 20 years of administrative experience in a variety of Minnesota school districts. He has served as a director of special education, HR director, high school principal, dean of students, and as a high school teacher for both special and regular education students. Scott has been a past president of the Minnesota Administrators for Special Education and is the 2019 MASE Special Education Director of the Year.

Eric Melbye  
Associate Superintendent  
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Dr. Eric Melbye currently serves as the associate superintendent of middle schools and student services for the Anoka-Hennepin School District. In that role, Dr. Melbye oversees the district's six middle schools as well as its special education department, student services department, Title IX programming, student mental health support services, integration and equity programming, and other areas.

This is the second year in Anoka-Hennepin for Dr. Melbye. Prior to coming to Anoka-Hennepin he served as the assistant superintendent in Bloomington for four years. Before that, he served five years as the executive director of student services in Bloomington. He's also held roles as executive director of interagency services for Southwest Metro Intermediate District 288 and special education supervisor for Bloomington Schools. He served as a secondary EBD teacher in Mankato and at the Carver-Scott Educational Cooperative before moving into administrative work.

Dr. Melbye earned his bachelor's degree in special education from Minnesota State University, Moorhead, and his master's and doctorate in educational leadership from the University of St. Thomas.

Stacey Dahlby  
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Stacey Dahlby is the director of special education for secondary schools with Anoka - Hennepin Schools. As the director, Stacey has oversight of middle and high school, transition, and k-12 setting IV programs. This is Stacey's fourth year with Anoka-Hennepin Schools.

Prior to Anoka-Hennepin, Stacey served as an Interim assistant special education director, supervisor of student support services, school psychologist, autism inclusion specialist and adjunct lecturer. She has worked in the school districts of Edina, Roseville, and Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan.

Stacey earned her bachelor of science in child study from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, master's in school psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Stout, and director of special education license from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

Amy Ernst  
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Amy Ernst is the Director of Special Education for Buffalo Hanover Montrose School District. This is her 6th year serving BHM schools and her 12th year in special education leadership. Outside of school, you can find her spending her time with her husband Mark, four daughters and two step-sons.