

**Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting
 Wednesday, November 18th, 2020
 Virtual Meeting via Zoom Webinar
 7:00-9:00 pm**

Meeting Host: Susan Neilson, School Board Clerk

MINUTES

The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) was convened for a meeting at 7:04 P.M. on November 18th, 2020 by Vice-Chair Michael Behrmann. Roll call was taken. Some members marked as present arrived after roll call.

In accordance with the provisions of the Code of Virginia § 2.2-3707, the meeting was open to the public.

	Name	Role	Present	Not Present
SEAC Members				
	Cindy Hart	Chair	X	
	Michael Behrmann	Vice-chair	X	
	Coral Childs	Co-secretary		X
	Abena Durity	Co-secretary	X	
	Janet Eissenstat	Member	X	
	Deborah Perry	Member	X	
	Sabrina Reilly	Member	X	
	Alexis Stackhouse	Member		X?
	Sandra Strachan-Vieira	Member		X?
	J-Lynn Van Pelt	Member	X	
	Jeffrey Zack	Member	X	
Consultants				
	Meagan Alderton	School Board Liaison	X	
	Pree Ann Johnson	Principal Liaison		X
	Theresa Werner	Staff Liaison	X	
Other				
	Courtney Davis	PRC Liaison	X	
	Janet Reese	PRC Liaison	X	
	Terri Mazingo	Chief of Teaching, Learning, Leadership	X	
	Margaret Lorber	School Board Member		
	Susan Neilson	School Board Clerk	X	

Approval of October Minutes

Minutes from October 27th, 2020, were approved.

Reports

Executive Director of Specialized Instruction

Terry Werner reviewed the return to school of six kindergarten city-wide classroom students. She noted that due to staffing shortages, no citywide 3-5th grade students would return as planned. On November 30th, Early Childhood and K-5 students who receive math and ELA from SPED teachers are scheduled to return. All returning students are receiving/will receive a half day of in-person instruction 4 days per week (Monday through Friday). Much discussion ensued with SEAC members expressing frustration with communications, both that families in the second group to return received a cancellation email only days before, and also that many families in ACPS think more students have gone back to in-person instruction. There was frustration that plans are made then change.

Ms. Werner commented that ACPS has publicized numbers but that she believes that sharing more detailed information directly with SPED families will help all to better understand the struggles involved in returning to school. She noted that staff have been working 14 hour days.

- Ms Werner has told Dr. Mozingo that she needs her own newsletter to communicate with SPED families more directly and that this has been approved.
- Ms Werner noted that a Q&A with SPED families is still in the works with the Communications department.

School Board Liaison

Meagan Alderton commented that the School Board has been examining all variables in returning students to school, with staff willingness to return and classroom space limitations being the difficult challenges.

- Budget: The School Board is looking at capital improvements, revenue is down, and the 10 year CIP is coming out soon

- Transportation: The new director is incredible!
- Strategic Plan Goals: The Board will address one goal every time they meet because they want to address student achievement constantly. She noted that K-2 literacy and MTSS are high priorities. At one recent meeting Terry Werner addressed the issue of over-identification of students of color as having emotional disabilities.

Parent Resource Center

Janet Reese shared that the PRC continues to hold informational webinars. There will be a Related Services Fair on December 3rd. This activity was proposed in the SPED Action Plan.

SEAC Chair

Cindy Hart continued the meeting with a review of the Communications survey.

Old Business

Communications priorities based on member survey

Eight of 11 SEAC members completed the survey. Results were reviewed and are attached to the minutes. Top priorities include:

- Improving district's communication with SPED families
- Provide a forum for families of SWD to meet with Superintendent
- Create a relationship with each school and its PTA
- Determine how to present the SPED Action Plan to the wider ACPS community
- Hand out at every IEP meeting info about SEAC and other resources for families of SWD
- Create a SEAC flyer for PTAs, Open Houses, etc.

Draft Scope of Work

Comments were shared regarding formatting. It was suggested that Visibility of SEAC remain a separate focus area as in last year's Scope of Work. Comments on budget indicated a need for budget priorities.

New Business

Communications Actions to take now

- Set up SEAC Facebook group--Sabrina
- Work on getting SEAC connected to schools on east end, west end respectively--J-Lynn, Debbie
- Consult with Terry about PCG Action Plan key items that should be communicated to the larger ACPS community--Mike
- Contact Superintendent to meet with SEAC--Cindy
- Consult with PRC about incorporating SEAC info into informational flyer--Cindy
- Consult with Susan Nielson re webpage—Cindy

Additional messaging to School Board, Superintendent

Though many opinions were expressed throughout the meeting with strong consensus about need for improved communications, it was noted that comments represent the views of individual members. Ms. Hart said that SEAC needs input from the broader SPED community of ACPS, which will hopefully be addressed by our Scope of Work.

Public Comment

None, however it was noted that members of the Public may have left. It was agreed that Public Comment should be returned to the beginning of the meeting.

Announcements

None