

**Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting  
 Wednesday, December 16, 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 7:07 P.M. on December 16, 2020 by Vice-Chair Michael Behrmann. Roll call was taken.

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
	Laura Fontaine	Pending Member	X	
	Lauren Golovski	Pending 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	
	Terry Mazingo	Chief of Teaching, Learning, Leadership	X	
	Margaret Lorber	School Board Member	X	

	Susan Nielson	School Board Clerk	X	
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**Public Comments.**

Cindy Hart read a letter from Hilary Sentell, the parent of a kindergartener with autism. Ms. Sentell expressed concern about the proposed return to school buildings and the lack of continuity for special education students. Terry Werner addressed this in her report.

*Thank you for your time. My name is Hilary Sentell and I am the parent of a kindergartener in the citywide autism program. I have a question and a comment. Do you plan on having the citywide and other special ed students use the concurrent teaching model with two full days in person or stick with the four half days with one-on-one instruction that we utilized in November? I believe that the four day half-day model is the most effective for these students as they thrive on consistency and routine. I am not sure how the concurrent teaching model would work for these students if some were in-person and some were at home as the teacher would be responsible for the students in person. Thank you*

**New Members.**

Cindy Hart announced to new SEAC members. Laura Fontaine a special education teacher at Lyles Crouch Traditional Academy and Lauren Golovski a former special education teacher.

**Approval of November Minutes**

Minutes from November 18, 2020 meeting were approved.

**Old Business**

**Draft Scope of Work**

Cindy Hart added a comment about budget impact and strategic plan alignment to the draft Scope of Work as well as budgetary impacts for each goal. There was a discussion on the “Visibility of SEAC” goal. It was agreed to rename it “Community awareness of SEAC” and to have it include diverse committee membership and public comment as goals.

The literacy goal was amended to focus on reviewing the ACPS plan for K-2 literacy and MTSS implementation. One member desired that the literacy goal focus on upper grades as well as lower. Cindy Hart commented that our work isn’t limited to reviewing K-2 literacy but that this will be our priority.

The Scope of Work passed unanimously.

## **Facebook page**

A Facebook page is being drafted. The draft is expected in 7-10 days.

## **SEAC member liaisons**

SEAC would like to assign a liaison to each school. The liaison would participate in PTA meetings and promote SEAC activities. It was noted that some PTA's are not currently meeting due to COVID-19.

## **Communication of PCG Acton Plan to the public**

No action to report.

## **Meeting with Superintendent**

The SEAC meeting with the ACPS Superintendent has been scheduled for January 27, 2021. This is the week after the next SEAC meeting. A motion to move the SEAC meeting to January 27, 2021, was passed.

## **Collaboration with PRC for SEAC PR**

A flyer is being drafted.

## **SEAC Webpage**

School Board Clerk Susan Nielson noted that SEAC cannot develop and maintain its own website. The school board needs to "own" the webpage because it is a SEAC is an advisory committee of the School Board. School board staff is working on it.

## **New Business and Reports**

### **Executive Director of Specialized Instruction**

Terry Werner reviewed the current return to school plan which is dependent on staffing, space, and community health metrics. Tentatively K-2 students in the citywide program will return 2 days a week beginning January 19, 2021. Grades 3-5 will return January 26 and grades 6-12 will return February 2. All general education students will return February 9, 2021. Students will return to their base schools, there will be no consolidations. Classroom set ups are under discussion. There will be some concurrent teaching (a teacher in a classroom also teaching virtually at the same time) and some teachers may teach virtually.

Terry Werner presented an overview of the Special Education budget. Terry noted that the number of special education students is down by 63 this year. However, staff will not be cut in

response. Due to COVID-19 spring evaluations that enroll students in special education programs were not carried out. Staffing will hold steady for 1 year.

The operating budget remains flat from last year. However, a \$220,000 CARES grant is being held in reserve to provide recovery services for students (tutors, after school programs, etc.) after school reopens.

A motion to support fully funding the Special Education budget and to fund six reserve SPED teacher positions (an increase of two positions over last year) was passed.

### **Working Groups to address Scope of Work items**

Cindy Hart noted that though it is difficult for subcommittees to meet we would try to make progress on the Scope of Work virtually between meetings. Members should start thinking about which Scope of Work goal they would like to address.

### **Announcements**

Meagan Alderton recognized J-Lynn Van Pelt's efforts to raise funds for a service dog for one of her children.

### **Adjourn**

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously. Chair Cindy Hart adjourned the meeting at 9:09 p.m.

### **Meeting Action Items**

Update Public Comment procedures-Mike/Cindy

Find SEAC liaisons for each school; make initial contacts-Debbie/J-Lynn

Gather input from families of SWD for meeting with Superintendent-liaisons

Communication of SPED Action Plan-Mike/Terry

Complete set-up of Facebook page-Sabrina

Contact VA General Assembly members about priority of SPED staff for vaccine—Meagan

Get info about K-2 Literacy Initiative-Cindy/Terry

**Items SEAC voted to communicate out during meeting**

Scope of Work

Support for fully funding SPED budget and for funding 6 reserve SPED staff positions (which is an increase of 2 positions over current level)