

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting
Date: April 21, 2021
7:00-9:00 pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Meeting Host: Susan Nielson, School Board Clerk

Minutes

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

Meeting called to order at 7:04. Quorum not yet established at meeting opening.

No Public Comment

Meeting Minutes from March 17, 2021, not yet available for review.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Erin Stone, Autism and Behavior Support Services Coordinator

- Dr. Stone provides training and supports for city-wide classrooms. She stated that the goal is to eliminate the need for city-wide classes, and some students transition out.
- Literacy programs in use include Reading Mastery, Corrective Reading, FLEX, Unique, and ELSB. Students also participate in guided reading with Epic, leveled readers, and Building with Stories. Students are also taught phonics skills.
- Level-specific packets for ESY will again be used this summer. Teachers really liked these and parents also commented on their benefits.
- In response to a question about a separate set of communications to families in city-wide classes, Dr. Stone indicated a willingness to collaborate but noted that a barrier is that some parents have no email address.
- ESY will be 4 days in person. There will be no concurrent instruction in the fall.

Old Business and Action Items

- Communications
Terry Werner stated that the quarterly newsletters would begin in mid-May. Cindy Hart noted the helpfulness of collaboration with the PRC for SEAC to reach non-English speaking communities.
- Anne Lipnick Awards update
Suggestions were made for the future and included: 1-change the nominations form to require more narrative, 2-consider adding a category for instructional specialist, and 3-allow those who make nominations to upload things such as documents and artwork.

New Business and Reports

- Special Education Annual Plan Review

- Terry Werner provided an overview of the IDEA Annual Plan, which outlines the planned use of IDEA grant funding. Funds are based on December 1st Child Count.
- The Federal Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement that ACPS maintain or increase level of funding has been met: \$16,771 last year vs. over \$18,000 this year.
- The past discrepancy in identification of Black students with Emotional Disabilities (ED) resulted in the requirement to spend 15% of total funds, or \$551,545, on this effort. There is now a citywide team to evaluate designation for ED. Funds have been used to address equity by providing intense programs for all staff, especially related to students of color and to SPED.
- A large part of IDEA funds will be for SPED positions. Currently staff costs don't outstrip funds available through the grant.
- A new position, Transition Coordinator, has been created to address transition issues starting in 6th grade. This need was noted in the VDOE report from 2019 and PCG report from 2018 on special education services in ACPS.
- Thanks to our School Board, no cuts were made in SPED staff this year despite a reduction of 70 SPED students.

A motion to approve the Annual Plan was made by Sandra Sstrachen-Vieria and seconded by Cindy Hart. The motion passed unanimously.

- Reports

- Executive Director of Specialized Instruction

- Students in citywide classes will be returning to school in-person 4 days per week. Summer school will have 3 tiers of instruction, including ESY 4 days in person, Monday through Thursday.
 - In fall, students will be in school 5 days per week in person.

- School Board Liaison

- Meagan Alderton noted the above models for summer and fall.

Parent Resource Center

- No additional information beyond reports to SEAC.

SEAC Chair

- Cindy Hart thanked the School Board for supporting funding for SPED students.
- Ms. Hart gave a reminder about the VDOE training for SEAC members. In the training, FOIA was strongly emphasized as was the necessity for outreach in order to collect data from all communities.
- Ms. Hart is outlining a SEAC member orientation for August.
- For next year, Ms. Hart recommended SEAC business meetings last for one hour and be followed by subcommittee meetings.
- Ms. Hart appointed Janet Eissenstat as Chair of a Nomination and Membership Subcommittee.
- SEAC Member Comments regarding unmet needs (pre-planning for next year)
 - A member requested information on the VDOE policy regarding COVID recovery services. Terry Werner said that guidance is coming.
- Teacher Representative
 - Laura Fontaine reported that staff discussed summer school at their most recent meeting.

Cindy Hart motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:59 pm.