

SEAC
Communications Subcommittee Meeting
Date: 5/19/2021
8:00 pm

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

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 8:10 pm.

In attendance: Sabrina Reilly, Debbie Perry, Ashley Baird Simpson, Cindy Hart.

The purpose of this meeting was to review progress to date and priorities moving forward in the areas of community outreach and of communications from the school division to families of students with disabilities.

Community Outreach/PR

The following community outreach was begun this year and was deemed important to continue:

- School liaisons/communication with PTAs
- Coordination with PRC and FACE
- Facebook page

The page has been created and documents loaded. Now it will need to be publicized and information provided that is valuable and appealing to parents. SEAC members cannot be involved in back and forth discussions due to VA FOIA restrictions. Some ideas have been considered for sending out each month, since as a Question of the Month, highlighting an FAQ for families of SWD. SEAC meetings can be publicized and minutes provided.

Future considerations for outreach:

- Encourage each school to have a SPED subcommittee or representative in their PTA. This person or subcommittee could serve as point of contact for SEAC.

Communications from District

The following communications from ACPS to families of SWD are deemed important moving forward:

- Quarterly SPED Newsletter from Executive Director of Specialized Instruction
- Live Q&As for families for times when large amounts of information are needed

Communication with families of students in City-wide classrooms:

- This was discussed but may not be necessary in non-COVID times. Dr. Erin Stone, who oversees the city-wide classrooms, expressed a willingness to collaborate on this when she spoke to SEAC. One challenge is that some parents do not have email addresses. One benefit is providing specific information to families in these classrooms, whose children have a unique educational experience that is shared by other families in city-wide classrooms spread across various schools in ACPS.

Future considerations for communication from ACPS:

- Consider a standard format or template for sharing work of SWD with their families.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.