

# SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE ALEXANDRIA, VA SCHOOL BOARD ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (ACPS) SUMMARY OF MEETING

**(draft as of 3/19/2020)**

February 19, 2020

The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) was convened for a meeting at 7:05 P.M. on February 19, 2020 by Chair Cindy Hart in the Library at T.C. Williams High School, Alexandria, VA. Cindy Hart and Michael Behrmann welcomed attendees.

In accordance with the provisions of the Code of Virginia § 2.2-3707, the meeting was open to the public. No members of the public were present.

**Attendees:**

	Name	Role	Present	Not Present
SEAC Members				
	Cindy Hart	Co-chair	X	
	Michael Behrmann	Co-chair	X	
	Coral Childs	Co-secretary		X
	Abena Durity	Member		X
	Janet Eissenstat	Member	X	
	Cherlyn Jenkins	Member		X
	Deborah Perry	Member		X
	Tammy Rotz	Teacher Rep	X	
	Alexis Stackhouse	Member	XAC	
	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 Academic Officer, ACPS		X

	Helen Lloyd	Director of Communications, ACPS	X	
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**Minutes**

The approval of outstanding meeting minutes was tabled until the next SEAC meeting.

**Special Report by Special Guest: Helen Lloyd, Director of Communications for ACPS**

Helen Lloyd discussed the role of the office of communications and guided discussion regarding how the communications office could support the role of SEAC and special education in general. She provided guidance regarding how her office now prioritizes their support based upon the resulted of the communications audit. The possibility of a special education newsletter was discussed. The group brainstormed about the various communication platforms available and how they might be used proactively by SEAC to support messages of inclusion and diversity. After questions, Ms. Lloyd departed at 8:06 pm.

**Report by Terry Werner, Executive Director of Specialized Instruction for ACPS**

Terry Werner gave an extensive report on the progress of training and utilizing Reading Cohort Specialists. The effort is proving to be very expensive and Dr. Werner is leading an effort to find a way to do it more economically. She also updated the committee on the hiring practices and what she is doing to recruit and hire specialized instruction staff. There was a general discussion regarding ongoing challenges with hiring and recruitment. She also briefed the committee on the new chief of staff and how that structure is expected to work to support her department and SEAC.

**Report from the Parent Resource Center (PRC)**

**The committee received a written report from the PRC in advance of the meeting which is attached to these minutes.**

**New Business**

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to a general discussion of the office of transportation. Committee members expressed concern over responsiveness, safety, video cameras and transparency regarding decision making. The consensus decision was to revisit this topic at the next meeting and to possibly hear from the transportation staff directly.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

**Upcoming Meetings**

- March 18, 2020
- April 15, 2020
- May 20, 2020
- June 17, 2020

These minutes will be formally considered by the advisory committee at its next meeting, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.

DRAFT