

September 14, 2015

Date: October 1, 2015

For ACTION _____

For INFORMATION _____

Board Agenda: Yes _____
_____ No

FROM: Jeffrey Zack, Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee
Sandra Strachan-Vieira, Co-Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee

THROUGH: Theresa Werner, JD., Executive Director of Specialized Instruction
Terri Mozingo, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer
Alvin L. Crawley, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Karen Graf, Chair, and Members of the Alexandria
City School Board

TOPIC: 2015-16 SEAC Plan and Scope of Work

BACKGROUND: The attached one page business plan outlines the proposed scope of work for your Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC). The committee adopted this one page format two years ago, and it provides ongoing focus for SEAC activities over the school year. It also serves as a concise, yet clear communication to all stakeholders. We will also update our Committee Member Handbook, which provides useful background for all of our members.

The SEAC role, as mandated by the Commonwealth of Virginia, are to:

1. Advise the local school division of needs in the education of children with disabilities;
2. Participate in the development of priorities and strategies for meeting the identified needs of children with disabilities;

September 14, 2015

3. Submit periodic reports and recommendations regarding the education of children with disabilities to the division superintendent for transmission to the local school board;
4. Assist the local school division in interpreting plans to the community for meeting the special needs of children with disabilities for educational services;
5. Review the policies and procedures for the provision of special education and related services prior to submission to the local school board; and
6. Participate in the review of the local school division's annual plan.

To deliver on our role, the SEAC initiatives for the 2015-2016 school year are to:

1. *DATA DRIVEN - Move to a more balanced qualitative and quantitative approach to identify the needs in the education of children with disabilities, and to participate in the development of priorities and strategies for meeting the identified needs of children with disabilities.* The committee wants to ensure the special education programs have defined outcomes that are appropriate and measurable. SEAC looks to work with ACPS administration to become more "data-driven". To accomplish this, time will be allotted in every SEAC meeting to review and better understand the ACPS Special Education Dashboard. SEAC will work with ACPS to evolve the dashboard into accurate, meaningful information.
2. *RAPID RECOVERY - Advise and counsel ACPS on approaches to rapidly improve outcomes for students with disabilities.* The committee recognizes in the last five years the continuous decline of test scores for students with special needs has led to a dire situation for those students in secondary schools. They don't have much more time in ACPS to improve their reading, writing and math abilities. In last year's recommendations, SEAC emphasized the need for a "Rapid Recovery" program for these students, as there is little remaining time to "fix it". SEAC looks forward to reviewing and assisting in the tuning of the administration's "Rapid Recovery" plan.
3. *BUILD TRUST - Work in partnership with the new Special Education leadership and other groups to build a culture of trust and cross-collaboration.* SEAC is encouraged with the experienced leadership the Superintendent has brought in to the special education programs over the 2015 summer. SEAC will work collaboratively with the entire team to assist the local school division in interpreting plans to the community for meeting the special needs of children with disabilities for educational services.

September 14, 2015

4. *Update the SEAC bylaws.* Due to changes in ACPS, and the evolution of SEAC operations, this year the bylaws will be updated to align with current operating procedures, while being compliant to all Virginia guidelines.
5. *Review ACPS policies and procedures and provide recommendations to align with the needs of children with disabilities.*
6. *Provide input to the school board on the annual budget and impacts on children with disabilities.*
7. *Sponsor the Harry Burke and Anne Lipnick Special Education Awards.*

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

IMPACT: Proposed objectives for the 2015-16 year.

CONTACT PERSON: Jeffrey Zack jeff.zack@zack42.com 571-243-7107
Sandra Strachan-Vieira ssv276@gmail.com



vision

Why

All students with disabilities achieve their potential and actively contribute to our local and global communities.



mission

Who

The purpose of this committee, in accordance with and subject to guidelines and regulations of the authorities of the Commonwealth of Virginia Administrative Code, Virginia Department of Education, Alexandria City School Board, and the SEAC Bylaws; shall be to provide advice and policy guidance concerning students with disabilities to members of the Alexandria City School Board.



objectives

DATA DRIVEN – RAPID RECOVERY – BUILD TRUST

- Move to a more balanced qualitative and quantitative approach to identify the needs in the education of children with disabilities, and to participate in the development of priorities and strategies for meeting the identified needs of children with disabilities.
- Advise and counsel ACPS on approaches to rapidly improve outcomes for students with disabilities (Rapid Recovery).
- Work in partnership with the new Special Education leadership and other groups to build a culture of trust and cross-collaboration.
- Update the SEAC bylaws.
- Review ACPS policies and procedures and provide recommendations to align with the needs of children with disabilities.
- Achieve full SEAC membership that represents the disabilities and educational levels in ACPS.
- Sponsor the Harry Burke and Anne Lipnick Special Education Award

When

- Maintain a balanced focus on the larger picture of special education in ACPS

How

September 14, 2015



strategies

- Establish action plans and sub-committees early and monitor progress monthly.
 - Leverage all constituencies by actively recruiting members to fill representation gaps.
 - Work collaboratively with the parent groups, ACPS administration, the specialized instruction office, principals, and all teachers/staff.
-



action plans

- Support accurate, timely, and insightful Special Education dashboards
- Ensure a Rapid Recovery Plan that is measurable and is implemented with fidelity.
- Special education budget analysis and recommendations
- Harry Burke & Anne Lipnick Awards
- Update bylaws