

Alexandria City Public Schools
Special Education Advisory Committee Meetings
T.C. Williams High School
Principal's Conference Room
3330 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302

Monday, April 24, 2017
7:00 – 9:00 pm

Minutes

- 1) Call to Order at 7:05 pm

- 2) Presentation and Discussion with Clarence Stukes, Chief Operating Officer, Support Staff in attendance: James Loomis, Elijah Gross, Debra Yap, and Erica Gulick
 - a. \$15million has been allocated towards land acquisition
 - b. ACPS has acquired building space located at 1701 & 1705 Beauregard for K-5 elementary schools as a temporary solution while work is done on the west end schools. Terry Werner provided input for the SPED needs for these locations.
 - c. Lee Center: A study was done to evaluate the Lee Center as swing space; the first draft was completed as of Monday, April 24th. The initial consideration is that it is doable and cost effective. The current plan is to continue to keep the therapeutic center at this location.
 - d. North Potomac Yards School: There is a plan in development to utilize .8 acres and create an urban school design model.
 - e. SEAC members posed the following questions:
 - i. Janet: What was the philosophy behind the building re-design for Patrick Henry?
 1. Answer: In addition to adhering to code issues, the goal was a universal design that would be inherently accessible to all students and faculty. The number of students per classroom would be dependent on the space allocated for each classroom.
 - ii. Sandra addressed the issue of the need to consider students with sensory or auditory process issues; “thought needs to be put into the type of flooring used in these buildings.”

- 3) Presentation and Discussion with James Loomis, Director of Employment Services
 - a. ACPS has a different salary scale for SPED teachers and is considered very competitive in comparison to neighboring school systems.
 - b. SPED positions are #1 of the top 10 critical teaching shortage for the state of VA.

- c. The #1 question from potential teacher candidates is; “what support does the school system provide incoming teachers?”
 - d. SEAC members posed the following questions:
 - i. Lisa: Why is it so hard to recruit and retain SPED teachers?
 1. Answer: It’s a hard job with a high burn out rate. Also, the candidates have to be uniquely motivated to manage the student and administrative caseloads that SPED teachers face.
 - ii. Sandra: Does ACPS collect exit interview data of teachers?
 1. Answer: ACPS does collect this data, but they don’t identify the teachers as SPED, Gen Ed, ect.
 2. Sandra recommended collaborating with the local colleges for not just recruitment, but for teacher training and curriculum building opportunities.
- 4) Specialized Education & all things with “the plan” going before the board with Terry Werner
 - a. Terry Werner presented the SPED Strategic plan and how the budget will be spent.
- 5) Report from the Chairman
- 6) Standing Committee Reports (Missed the reporting for all but Outreach Committee)
 - Governance Committee Report
 - Approval of the Minutes
 - Bylaws Update
 - Budget Committee Report
 - Outreach Committee Report: Sub Committee submitted a draft email for Terry Werner’s review to be distributed to ACPS Principals regarding October’s Disability Awareness month events and participation.
 - Harry Burke Awards Committee Report
- 7) Unfinished Business
- 8) New Business
- 9) Announcements:
 - a. VDOE – STAC Training 5/16/17
 - b. VDOE Advanced SEAC Training 4/26/17 or 5/17/17
 - c. VDOE PEATC –Training 4/26/17, 4/27/17, or 4/28/17
- 10) Adjournment at 9:05 pm