

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: June 16th, 2021

7:00-9:00 pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Meeting Host: Susan Nielson, School Board Clerk

DRAFT Minutes

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

Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm.

Roll call was taken by Vice-Chair Mike Behrmann.

Chair Cindy Hart reviewed meeting norms.

Approval of Minutes from previous meetings

A motion was made by J-Lynn Van Pelt and seconded by Cindy Hart to approve the following minutes:

March, 2021, SEAC meeting

April, 2021, SEAC meeting, with one deletion as suggested by Terry Werner, so that only this comment regarding staffing costs under Annual Plan remains:

- A large part of IDEA funds will be for SPED positions. Currently, staff costs don't outstrip funds available through the grant.

May, 2021, SEAC meeting

Literacy subcommittee meeting

Ashley Simpson Baird voted yes for May minutes only; Jeff Zack abstained; the remaining members present voted yes.

Vote total:

7 yes for all

1 yes for May; abstained for others

1 abstained

It was agreed to delay the vote on the Communications subcommittee meeting due to late submission.

Anne Lipnick Awards

The awards were given with the addition of a category for Related Services Provider. It was noted that next year the submission form needs to request more information about the nominee.

By-Laws amendments (see attachment)

Several amendments were proposed relating to the election of officers, which would occur later in the meeting.

For Amendment 1

A motion was made by Cindy Hart and seconded by J-Lynn Van Pelt to approve.

It passed unanimously with no discussion.

For Amendment 2

A motion was made by Lauren Golubski and seconded by Cindy Hart to approve.

It passed unanimously with no discussion.

For Amendment 3

During discussion a “Friendly Amendment” to this amendment was proposed by Sandra Strachen-Vieira and a motion to vote on it was made by Sandra Strachen-Vieira and seconded by Jeff Zack.

The friendly amendment related to this portion of the proposed amendment: “Officers may serve in another leadership role after their prior term has expired.” The friendly amendment proposed that Chair and Vice-Chair NOT be allowed to be nominated in either of these positions after serving two consecutive years in one of these positions. The reasoning was that since the By-Laws state that “The Chair/Vice-Chair share equally in the duties and responsibilities of leadership” (Article IV.B.14.i.) that allowing a switch of positions is essentially like allowing a Chair to continue as Chair if they become Vice-Chair. This argument was refuted by Chair Cindy Hart who noted that our School Board requires advisory committees to have a Chair and Vice-Chair and not Co-Chairs as had been the case for SEAC in the past. So the Chair and Vice-Chair are distinct roles, as required by our School Board. Ms. Sandra Strachen-Vieira noted that some SEACs in Virginia have Co-Chairs, showing that this is allowed. Ms. Hart agreed that the State of Virginia allows Co-Chairs but that the State defers to the local jurisdiction in determining the leadership of the SEAC.

The “Friendly Amendment” to Amendment 3 failed. Votes are recorded below.

Hart-no
Behrmann-no
Fontaine-yes
Golubski-no
Perry-no
Reilly-no
Strachen-Vieira-yes
Van-Pelt-yes
Zack-yes

Vote total for “Friendly Amendment” to Amendment 3

5 no
4 yes

Subsequently, a motion was made by Cindy Hart and seconded by Laura Fontaine to vote on Amendment 3 as written. Jeff Zack and Sandra Strachen-Vieira abstained and all other members present voted yes, so Amendment 3 passed.

Vote total:

7 yes
2 abstained

For Amendment 4

A motion was made by Cindy Hart and seconded by Sabrina Reilly to pass Amendment 4. Jeff Zack and Sandra Strachen-Vieira voted no and all other members present voted yes, so Amendment 4 passed.

Vote total:

7 yes

2 no

In-person requirement for elections

Due to the necessity of holding this meeting virtually, Chair Cindy Hart noted that we would need to suspend the in-person requirements for elections.

A motion to suspend the in-person requirement for election of officers was made by Cindy Hart and seconded by J-Lynn van Pelt and passed unanimously without discussion.

Unanimous consent was given to accept the By-laws as amended.

End-of-Year Report from SEAC to School Board

A motion to approve the report was made by J-Lynn Van Pelt and seconded by Lauren Golubski. The motion passed unanimously.

SEAC and SPED Community Questions and Concerns

It was asked how ACPS is planning on allocating Federal and State funds. Terry Wener was not yet present to answer.

Reports

School Board Liaison

Meagan Alderton reported that the School Board approved the Combined Funds Budget and the Capital Improvement Budget, adding \$1.25 million for a pool at the Minnie Howard site. The final School Board meeting is June 17, 2021, and the culmination of fall re-opening plans will be shared.

Ms. Alderton noted that SEAC may wish to provide Public Comment on the ESR funds and Federal funds at an August 3rd Special Called School Board meeting.

Executive Director of Specialized Instruction

Terry Werner reported that about 300 students will attend ESY in person in July, with K-8 at Jefferson Houston and 9-12 and post-secondary at the Alexandria City High School. ESY is fully staffed. Planning is underway for fall and extensive ESY planning started in the previous week.

Student recovery and progress monitoring will be the focus for fall. Families who choose virtual instruction will have two platforms available: Virtual Virginia with city-wide class services being

provided in-house. ACPS will work with families using Virtual Virginia for the asynchronous times.

Parent Resource Center

In response to a question about large number of staff contacts, PRC staff was noted that the virtual hotline leads to more staff contacts. In response to another question, PRC staff noted that they do contact houses of worship.

Elections

The slate of officers was unanimously approved:

Chair: Lauren Golubski

Vice Chair: Mike Behrmann

Co-Secretary: J-Lynn Van Pelt

SEAC Meetings for 2021-22

Members expressed a desire for permission from the State of Virginia to continue to meet virtually.

Action item: Meagan Alderton to bring this up with State Senator.

A motion was made by Cindy Hart and seconded by Sandra Strachen-Vieira to continue meetings on the 3rd Wednesdays of the month. Debbie Perry abstained and all other members voted yes, so the motion passed.

The Alexandria City High School library is a possible location.

There may be an orientation; that is to be determined by the new Chair.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 by unanimous consent.