

Special Education Advisory Committee
Virginia Beach Public Schools
 January 12, 2009 Minutes

Attendance

Present Members:	Joanna Bryant, Ping Camano, Sandra Hermann, Honey Low, Kathy Major (DRS), Kara Russell, Carolyn Stark (P&R), Tracy Smigel (DHS), Marianne Stinson, Cheryl Ward
Absent Members:	Tommy Billups, Beth Callahan (TCC), Lisa Parker, Jan Solock
Consultants Present:	Norman Brown, Suzie Kumpf, Robert Mitchell
Consultants Absent:	Dr. Judith Green
Guests:	Cynthia Morgenstern, Ashleigh Roberson, Sara Schauer, Carolyn Weems
Quorum Present:	Yes

Welcome/Introductions

The meeting began with Sandy Hermann welcoming everyone present and calling for introductions. Sandy announced that VBTv will be filming portions of today’s meeting for a future broadcast regarding SEAC.

Public Comment

No current public comment

Announcements

Organization	Event	More Info.
Independence Center	State SEAC Meeting	January, 461-4474
Care Connection	Meetings	Jan. 21, Feb. 25, March 25, April 22, May 27, June 24 461-4474
TASA	Trip to Washington D.C.	Thurs. January 15 tasa@tidewaterasa.org
TASA	AMC Sensory Friendly Film, “Hotel for Dogs”	Jan 31, AMC Lynnhaven 486-5665
TASA	Respite Services	Wednesdays tasa@tidewaterasa.org

- ❖ “Autism in the School Setting” – this month’s Parent Connection article by Dr. Harrington who is with CHKD
- ❖ Reminder that TASA has a resource center which includes a lending library and computers with internet access.

Correspondence

None to report

Reports

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<p>Bob Mitchell OPEC</p>	<p>Presented information on the State Performance Plan for the 2006-2007 school year. Mr. Mitchell stated that for any targets not met in 2006-2007 that objectives have been put in place in order for the division to meet the targets. VBCPS is currently collecting information for the 2007-2008 school year. Discussion was held regarding the graduation rate for students with disabilities receiving standard or advanced diplomas. Discussion for next month to focus on inclusionary practices.</p>
<p>VBDHS: VaBeach Infant Program & MR Dept</p>	<p>November enrollment: 261 November Discharges: 10 Number discharged attending VBCPS: 4 Infant Program report submitted and attached to minutes</p> <p>Tracy announced that the MR Department sends letters to students diagnosed with intellectual disabilities regarding graduation/post graduation and they work on transition plans with students as well.</p>
<p>TCC</p>	<p>No report submitted</p>
<p>Carolyn Stark/Bill Parker Parks & Recreation</p>	<p>P&R hosted a “warm winter gathering” for families in December with a wonderful turn out.</p> <p>The P&R guide has a new look and three separate guides which are mailed to homes of residents and are available at the recreation centers.</p> <p>January 5, 2009 was registration for winter/spring classes.</p> <p>P&R will be having another “Just Wanna Dance” program for youth and adults.</p> <p>Febraury 28 is registration (for Virginia Beach residents) for the summer camp programs. Registration will be at the Kempsville Recreation Center. April 1 will be registration for surrounding cities.</p>
<p>Parent Resource Center</p>	<p>No report submitted</p>
<p>Kathy Major Dept. of Rehab. Services</p>	<p>Two new counselors (Bonita Lyman & Doral Jackson) will be working with Kathy.</p> <p>DRS is still under order of selection/all four categories of severity are closed at this time. Parents and others are given many resources, including volunteer programs. DRS Still maintains a waiting list with about 30 who are currently on the list. Many referrals are still coming in.</p>
<p>Cheryl Ward Endepndence Center</p>	<p>Recent budget cuts and proposals are being monitored.</p> <p>The state Special Education Regulations are still pending from the Governor.</p> <p>A Medicaid Waiver workshop will be on February 21 at the Endepndence Center.</p>

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	<p>Discussion: The ECDC waiver does not have a waiting list at the present time. As of July 1, 2009 there could be a waiting list depending on the Governor's plans. Some services from the waivers may be cut by the Governor. The Governor has proposed individual cost-based waivers rather than the aggregate cost-based waivers (this is for all waivers).</p>
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SEAC Standing Subcommittees

<p>Membership Subcommittee Chair: Kara Russell</p>	<p>Honey Low submitted her letter requesting re-appointment. The committee will vote in February. Kara will notify those whose membership will be expiring soon.</p>
<p>Policy Review Subcommittee Chair: Sandy Hermann</p>	<p>No policies needing review at this time.</p>

SEAC Ad Hoc Subcommittees

<p>Student Performance Assessment Chair: Honey Low</p>	<p>The subcommittee would like more SEAC members to participate in the meetings. The subcommittee met on December 23. Honey Low submitted a report which is attached to the minutes. Concerns were raised regarding the low test scores for students with disabilities. Future meetings are scheduled for February 6 (at Panera Bread Hilltop), March 6, & April 3. In May the subcommittee will be putting their report together.</p>
<p>By-Law Review Chair: Cheryl Ward</p>	<p>The next subcommittee meeting will be Wednesday January 14 at 9:00 at the Endependence Center. The subcommittee is working on a rough draft of the by-laws, the roles of SEAC members, and how certain tasks are performed. After the state regulations go through then a final draft of VBCPS SEAC By-Laws will be proposed to the SEAC committee.</p>
<p>SEAC Effectiveness Chair: Joanna Bryant</p>	<p>The subcommittee will be meeting after today's meeting. The new membership binders are ready and the new membership packets are complete. Results of comments/questionnaires from the Resource Fair are being put in brochure form. A parent information/fact booklet is being generated and Joanna will send an email to set a date to work on this.</p>

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	The Effectiveness subcommittee finalized the nominating guidelines and sent to the Bylaws subcommittee. The Effectiveness subcommittee is working on defining the duties/role of SEAC officers and the role of SEAC consultants, and they will be submitting this information to the By-Laws subcommittee on January 14.
Deaf Community Chair: Lisa Parker	No report given.
Minority Review Subcommittee Chair: Cheryl Ward	No activity to report. Cheryl proposed a meeting immediately following the February 8 SEAC meeting .
Annual Report Committee Chair: Sandy Hermann	No meeting/no report submitted

SEAC Representatives

Va Beach Employment Transition Connection Representative(s)	The next transition meeting is scheduled for February 4 at 9:00 at the Laskin Road Annex.
SECEP Joint Board Meeting Representative(s)	The next meeting is January 21, 2009 at 12:30. Carolyn Stark will be attending.
School Board Representative	No SEAC members attended the recent school board meeting.

Old Business

- A. See the matrix handed out by Mr. Mitchell regarding the annual report update. In the comments you will find procedures being implemented as a result of the audit. If you have questions you can email Mr. Mitchell.
- B. Cheryl is going through the transportation audit now. No one from SEAC has submitted questions to Cheryl regarding transportation issues/concerns. Mr. Crumb is to speak at a future SEAC meeting on the topic of integrated transportation and related transportation concerns.
- C. The Parent Resource Center is currently manned part-time and Mr. Mitchell and Daisy Woods are fielding the calls. The role and responsibilities of the parent resource personnel is being reviewed and there is some consideration for that role to be like that of an ombudsman. The SEAC committee held discussion regarding the role of personnel assigned to the Parent Resource Center with concerns about the differences between advocacy and an ombudsman.
- D. A firm has been selected and a contract has been presented - to provide OT services to students.

New Business

- A. The State budget cuts will impact VBCPS to some degree. In addition, enrollment is down district wide. There are different categories in the budget to analyze at this time. During discussion Norman Brown with VEA stated that the budget cuts will affect VBCPS but we are uncertain as to exactly how at this time. He stated that some cuts may be in year round schools and their may be position cuts as well. Interested parties may go to www.fundqualityschools.org

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to sign a petition which seeks to preserve school funding. Also, www.veanea.org has an action alert and interested parties can send a letter to their legislators. Carolyn Weems, School Board Member, pointed out that local funds support education significantly.

Other Business

No other business to report.

Review of Public Comment:

No current public comment

No past month public comment

Reading and Approval of the Minutes:

Corrections to the December Draft Minutes:

- A. Carolyn Weems was a guest in December.
- B. On page 3, under the Effectiveness subcommittee report it should read - Submitted the nominating guidelines to the Bylaws subcommittee and will submit the role of officers including the role of consultants.
- C. On page 5, under other business there was a typo. Instead of “provided” it should read “provide”.

Honey Low made a **MOTION** to approve the December draft minutes with corrections.

Meeting Adjourned

A **MOTION** was made by Kara Russell to adjourn the meeting. A second was made by Tracy Smigel.

Next SEAC Meeting

February 8, 2009 – 9:00 a.m.

Laskin Road/Special Education Annex

1413 Laskin Road, Rm 25

Virginia Beach, VA (757) 263-2400