

Special Education Advisory Committee
Virginia Beach Public Schools
 February 9, 2009 Minutes

Attendance

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| Present Members: | Joanna Bryant, Beth Callahan (TCC), Ping Camano, Pat Davis (DHS), Sandra Hermann, Honey Low, Bonita Lyman (DRS), Lisa Parker, Kara Russell, Carolyn Stark (P&R), Tracy Smigel (DHS), Jan Solock, Marianne Stinson, Cheryl Ward (ECI) |
| Absent Members: | Tommy Billups |
| Consultants Present: | Priscilla Hawkins (SECEP), Suzie Kumpf, Robert Mitchell |
| Consultants Absent: | Norman Brown |
| Guests: | Veronica Byong, Chris Chewning, Pat Edmonson, Marie Felton, Megan Ingleaby, Joan Lewin, Amy Schuiteboer, Michele Self, Daisy Wood |
| Quorum Present: | Yes |

Welcome/Introductions

The meeting began with Sandy Hermann welcoming everyone present and calling for introductions.

Public Comment

No current public comment

Announcements

TASA:

- ❖ The TASA Resource Center is open
- ❖ TASA calendar of events can be found on the website: tasa@tidewaterasa.org
- ❖ TASA respite services are on Wednesday evenings

| Organization | Event | More Info. |
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| Endeppence Center | PIER Meeting: “Integrated Transportation” | Feb 21; 9-12 at the Endeppence Center |
| Endeppence Center | Medicaid Waiver Workshop | Feb 21; call 461-8007 to register |
| Care Connection | Support Group Meetings | Jan. 21, Feb. 25, March 25, April 22, May 27, June 24 461-4474 |
| TASA | “Developing Peer Interactions in Children with Autism” workshop | March 13; call 461-4474 for information |
| CHKD | Autistic Spectrum Disorders workshop | March 20; Doubletree Hotel, Virginia Beach http://www.chkd.org/conferences |
| CHKD | Spasticity clinic | First Monday of each month; 668-8247 |

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Correspondence

Honey Low and Lisa Parker both submitted their letters requesting SEAC membership re-appointment. Sandy Hermann read the letters to all present.

Reports

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| <p>Bob Mitchell OPEC</p> | <p>Distributed a mid-year progress report for the special education audit. There were a total of 31 recommendations as a result of the audit. Discussion was held regarding the handout. Honey Low suggested that a SEAC member advise or assist the Special Education Dept. Mr. Mitchell stated that in some cases that would not be a problem and that some members have been asked to assist in the past. Sandy Hermann clarified that some things done by the Dept. of Special Education are administrative, but in some cases SEAC can advise the department of particular issues.</p> |
| <p>VBDHS: VaBeach Infant Program & MR Dept</p> | <p>January enrollment: 259 January Discharges: 16 Number discharged attending VBCPS: 3 Infant Program report submitted and attached to minutes</p> |
| <p>TCC</p> | <p>Spring semester began in January. 354 students with disabilities are enrolled at the Virginia Beach campus. 91 students are considered “track and support” The Virginia Beach campus has 70 more students with disabilities enrolled this semester. Sandy requested that Beth bring the student disability booklet for all members to review.</p> |
| <p>Carolyn Stark/Bill Parker Parks & Recreation</p> | <p>Reminder - The P&R guide has a new look and three separate guides which are available at the recreation centers and online. January 5, 2009 was registration for winter/spring classes. February 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. Report submitted and attached to minutes.</p> |
| <p>Parent Resource Center</p> | <p>No report submitted</p> |
| <p>Kathy Major Dept. of Rehab. Services</p> | <p>DRS is still under order of selection/all four categories of severity are closed at this time. Counselors are still taking referrals for when categories open.</p> |

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| <p>Cheryl Ward Independence Center</p> | <p>The state Special Education Regulations are still on the Governor's desk. A Medicaid Waiver workshop will be on February 21 at the Independence Center.</p> |
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SEAC Standing Subcommittees

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| <p>Membership Subcommittee Chair: Kara Russell</p> | <p>SEAC has current openings for membership. Letters to principals, PTA and special education personnel to be sent regarding SEAC/membership.</p> |
| <p>Policy Review Subcommittee Chair: Sandy Hermann</p> | <p>No policies needing review at this time.</p> |

SEAC Ad Hoc Subcommittees

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| <p>Student Performance Assessment Chair: Honey Low</p> | <p>Subcommittee met on 2/6. After reviewing SOL data the subcommittee would like to put together a spreadsheet of data (grade level, subject, disability, and comparison to regular education students). There is a noted difference on SOL scores for students with disabilities compared to students without disabilities. The subcommittee is requesting more SEAC members. A report was submitted and attached to the minutes.</p> |
| <p>By-Law Review Chair: Cheryl Ward</p> | <p>The subcommittee met on Wednesday January 14. A rough draft of the by-laws was developed but may need further revisions once the state regulations are finalized. The current bylaws are not being followed in reference to subcommittee membership, and this issue will be addressed in today's agenda. The next meeting is scheduled for 3/16/09 at 9:00 at the TASA office. A report was submitted and attached to the minutes.</p> |
| <p>SEAC Effectiveness Chair: Joanna Bryant</p> | <p>The new membership binders are ready and the new membership packets are complete. A parent information/fact booklet is being generated and is based on the top issues/concerns addressed by parents from the 2007-2008 parent questionnaires. The Effectiveness subcommittee submitted to the Bylaws subcommittee the duties/role of SEAC officers and the role of SEAC consultants. Also, SEAC procedural guidelines were submitted to the Bylaws subcommittee. A report was submitted and attached to the minutes.</p> |

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| Deaf Community Chair: Lisa Parker | No report given. |
| Minority Review Subcommittee Chair: Cheryl Ward | There will be a meeting after today's meeting. Cheryl met the Director of Equity Affairs for VBCPS and she will be coordinating a meeting with her and the subcommittee in the future. |
| Annual Report Committee Chair: Sandy Hermann | Will need to begin the process of compiling information for the annual report. |

SEAC Representatives

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| Va Beach Employment Transition Connection Representative(s) | The meeting was changed from 2/4/09 to 2/11/09. |
| SECEP Joint Board Meeting Representative(s) | Carolyn Stark attended the January 21, 2009 meeting. On the agenda was the Re-Ed budget process, the 2007-2008 audit, update on the long term project plan and program enrollment. |
| School Board Representative | <p>Ping Camano attended the last school board meeting. She reported that there was discussion regarding possible closure of the year-round schools. Pat Edmonson, School Board member, announced that the year round schools will be closing at the end of this year. Discussion was held regarding data for the efficacy of year round schools and Pat Edmonson is interested in this data, specifically for children with disabilities. Pat Edmonson is urging our representatives to be careful with money for VBCPS. February 26 is "lobbying day" and if anyone has concerns to let Pat know.</p> <p>Reminder that school board agendas are published in the newspaper and on the website prior to the meetings.</p> |

Old Business

- A. SEAC Annual Report Update: No additional information regarding last year's annual report provided by OPEC at this time.
- B. Transportation Questions/Past Audit: Cheryl is still working on composing questions from SEAC members.
- C. Occupational Therapy Shortage Update: Rehab Associates has signed a contract with VBCPS to provide OT services for VBCPS students as needed.
- D. Virginia Beach Special Education Budget: At the December 1st count, VBCPS had 240 less students than the year 2007. A declining enrollment means less federal funds and possible adjusting services. Currently VBCPS has above the required and standard teacher to student ratio in SPED.

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- E. Parent Resource Center update: New job description has not been completed. Currently, Mr. Mitchell, Dr. Wood and a part time staff member have been returning all phone calls and emails. A discussion followed regarding duties and role for the position and how parents will perceive the services provided. Advocates on SEAC expressed their fear that there would be a decrease in referrals for their services. Pat Edmondson, Virginia Beach School Board member explained that the School Board sees having a parent ombudsman or advocate in the PRC as a way to satisfy their mandate to better serve parents.

New Business

- A. A presentation on transition was facilitated by Amy Schuiteboer, Transition Specialist with VBCPS. Copies of the powerpoint were distributed and are attached to the minutes. The presentation explained all that VBCPS is doing for transition for students with disabilities. Discussion points were: 1) updated testing is needed at the college level which the public school is not responsible for completing. Colleges are not required to do testing, parents are responsible for testing at the college level; 2) In order to get accommodations in college students have to have a psychological report which the public school is not required to do; and 3) Many parents decline DRS services.
- B. Language Interpreter Services: Sandy brought a piece of equipment used by CHKD when language interpreters are needed. Sandy engaged in a discussion regarding this as a possible resource for the school system. She will provide the brochure to be attached to these minutes.
- C. Emergency Preparedness for Children with Special Needs: Sandy noted that this is a great resource for families with children with special needs. Care Connection packet for emergency situation with individuals with special needs was provided to all present at the meeting.
- D. SEAC Communication/Correspondence: Sandy reminded all members of SEAC that they are not to act as representatives of SEAC unless the member has been appointed by SEAC. Members may state or write their personal opinions but not on behalf of SEAC.
- E. SEAC Subcommittee Members: Review of each subcommittee and all subcommittee members took place during the meeting. The Deaf Community Subcommittee and the Student Performance Assessment Subcommittee were noted to have less than three voting members on the Subcommittee. Sandy requested that both identified subcommittees with less than three voting members will attempt to recruit new members if they feel that their subcommittee should stay active, be absorbed into another subcommittee or disbanded. Subcommittees should report back to SEAC on subcommittee goals and membership at the March meeting.
- F. Inclusion Model: An inclusion manual has been developed so that every school will have an inclusion plan. Mr. Mitchell will be presenting at our March meeting.
- G. SEAC Appointment/Reappointment: Following requirements in SEAC bylaws, an election was held for reappointment of two members. Based on election results, only one reappointment was approved by voting members. Lisa Parker's letter will go forward to the School Board with SEAC's recommendation. Honey Low's letter will not be sent to the School Board with SEAC's recommendation.

Other Business:

SEAC needs to determine a topic for our April evening meeting which is on April 20th at 6:30.

Discussion was held concerning possible topics for consideration. A decision was not yet reached.

Review of Public Comment:

No current public comment

No past month public comment

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Reading and Approval of the Minutes:

The minutes were held for approval until March meeting. Jan Solock requested that all changes and corrections be submitted to Marianne before the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by JoAnna Bryant and a second was made by Cheryl Ward.

Next SEAC Meeting

March 9, 2009 – 9:00 a.m.
Laskin Road/Special Education Annex
1413 Laskin Road, Rm 25
Virginia Beach, VA (757) 263-2400