

**Special Education Advisory Committee  
Virginia Beach Public Schools  
Approved SEAC Minutes – February 14, 2011**

**Attendance**

Present Members:	Rayna Amoreno, JoAnna Bryant, Ping Camano, Deborah Dougherty, Sandy Hermann, Cheresse Jenks, Sara MacDonald, Kara Russell, Dianna Swenson,
Absent Members:	DRS (Rod Curry, Maureen Gibson), Lisa Parker, Jan Solock,
Consultants Present:	Melissa Barnett, Norman Brown, Dr. Judith Green, Suzie Kumpf, Bonita Lyman, Dr. Brenda Reid, Carolyn Stark, Cheryl Ward, Dr. Daisy Wood
Consultants Absent:	C&I Rep (Jennifer Stratton)
Guests:	Andrea Anderson, Tuanda Byrd, Hong Do, Peaches Ellis, Karen Hawkins, Elizabeth Jones, Nancy Williams
Quorum Present:	Yes

**Welcome/Introductions**

The meeting commenced at 9:10 AM, with Kara Russell welcoming everyone present.

**Public Comment**

There were two public comments—

1. Kara read a letter written by Megan DeLeon Miller, at the request of Kathleen Day regarding Hunter Hughes, her son. Ms. Day expressed concern that Hunter was placed in a *Rifton* chair while being assessed in the Preschool Assessment Center without her permission. (a copy of the letter is on file)
2. Nancy Williams, parent of a child with Autism, expressed her concerns about her son inability to access textbooks on line. (a copy of the letter is on file)

**Announcements**

**SEAC Member: Cheryl Ward, ECI**

- PIER Meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2011 at the Endependence Center. The meeting will focus on Assessments/evaluation and Essential components to your child’s education, and will be facilitated by Amy Courtney, Education Specialist, and Consultant Advocate.
- ARC, is sponsoring a trip to Richmond on February 15, 2011—Advocate for “*A Life Like Yours*”. Meetings will be with legislators, more information can be obtained by emailing [LisaLane757@gmail.com](mailto:LisaLane757@gmail.com)
- ECI Workshop scheduled for February 17, 2011 beginning at 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Discussion will be on local housing plans
- Cheryl informed the committee of a program called “Advise the Advisor” sponsored by President Obama, as he tries to stays connected with Americans. More information can be obtained by contacting Cheryl Ward or emailing <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2011/02/07/advise-advisor-your-direct-line-white-house>. This event is scheduled for February 15, 2011. Cheresse Jenks volunteered to call in for the information.
- Representatives from ECI attended the General Assembly on CIL day January 2011 and met with legislators to emphasize the needs of Virginia citizens with disabilities. The medical enrollment in Virginia is steadily climbing; the projected enrollment is expected to grow to 700,000 by 2014.

**Parent Support and Information Center: Dr. Brenda Reid**

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<b><u>Announcements</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ February 16, 2011 the PSIC is sponsoring a workshop for parent entitled “<i>Is Your Child a Target of Bullying</i>”. The workshop will be held at Hermitage Elementary School from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.</li> <li>▪ February 19, 2011 a workshop entitled “<i>Planning for Your Child’s Future</i>” will be held at the Endependence Center in Norfolk, from 9:00 a.m. – 12: noon.</li> <li>▪ Parent Happy Hour is scheduled for February 23, 2011 in Room 1, at the Laskin Road Annex.</li> <li>▪ Transition to Higher Education is scheduled for February 28 at Landstown High School starting at 6:00 p.m.</li> </ul>
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**Reports**

<b>Dr. Daisy Wood, OPEC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dr. Wood introduced Allison Jordan to the committee; Ms. Jordan now assumed the new administrative coordinator’s role for OPEC. Dr. Wood informed the committee that the Annual Plan is in development. She spoke about the “Bullying” committee and notified the committee that Dr. Alvenia Mitchell heads that committee. A workshop was conducted to justify the real meaning of “bullying” vs., joking.</li> <li>▪ January 4, 2011 the school board initiated a resolution that made January “Bully Awareness Month”. It was indicated that most bullying are unreported. An inquiry was made to see if a member from the SEAC committee could served on the bullying committee, Dr. Wood notified the committee that it was recommended— it would be best that a parent <b>not</b> serve on the school board committee. Cheryl Ward made a motion that a group letter from the committee be sent to Dr. Alvenia Mitchell to request that a representative of SEAC be part of the committee. The motion was seconded by Cherese Jenks, all were in favor.</li> </ul>
<b>Dept. Parks and Rec. Carolyn Stark</b>	Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation Spring Guides are currently available and can be obtained at any of the recreation centers or on line at <a href="http://www.vbgov.com/parks">www.vbgov.com/parks</a>
<b>Parent Support and Information Center</b>	<p><b>Parent Support and Information Center: Dr. Brenda Reid November 8, 2011 – December 13, 2011 Center Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 106 call, 9 center visits, and 42 emails were received in the center.</li> <li>➤ Attended 7 IEP meetings with parents.</li> <li>➤ Hosted Parent Support and Information Center Open House</li> <li>➤ Attended the State SPED Advisory Committee meeting</li> </ul>
<b>Cheryl Ward Endependence Center</b>	General Assembly proposing cuts to waiver services for respite hours, personal care hours, environmental modification amounts and assistive technology amounts. Advocacy groups are actively trying to persuade legislators not to

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	reduce these services.
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**SEAC Standing Subcommittees**

<b>Membership Subcommittee</b> <b>Chair: Jan Solock</b>	In the absence of Jan Solock, Kara read a letter to the committee written by Elizabeth Jones, requesting membership as a teacher representative to the SEAC committee. (Copy of letter on file). Single slate of Officers: The Nominating Subcommittee, made up of Rayna Amorena, Sara MacDonald, and Carolyn Stark. Ms. Jones was introduced to the committee; information for membership will be submitted to the School Board on April 26, 2011.
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**SEAC Ad Hoc Subcommittees:**

<b>SEAC Effectiveness</b> <b>Chair: JoAnna Bryant</b>	JoAnna requested that Veronica revised the flyer for the evening meeting for distributed to all schools and SEAC members.
<b>Minority Review</b> <b>Cheryl Ward</b>	No report/activity reported.
<b>Disability Awareness Subcommittee</b> <b>Cherese Jenks</b>	Proposal dates, and information will be sent out to all school in the upcoming month. Daisy Wood announced that an annually disability online test will be implemented for all employees, in an effort to educate employees about disability awareness.
<b>Annual Report Committee</b> <b>Chair: Sara MacDonald</b>	Committee met once and plans to meet again. The annual report will be ready in the summer. Sandy Hermann encouraged all SEAC members to be in attendance at the April 26, 2011 School Board meeting.
<b>By-Law Review</b> <b>Chair: Cheryl Ward</b>	A copy of the Bylaws was sent to all SEAC members electronically. (The Bylaw was reviewed by the city attorney changes were made). Cheryl Ward made a motion to keep some of the original wording to Articles 3 and 4. JoAnna seconded the motion, all members were in favor.

**SEAC Representatives**

<b>Transportation</b> <b>Dianna Swenson</b>	Video tapes are currently being enforced on SPED busses. Members were asked to send all information regarding transportation guidelines to Dianna by February 18, 2011 to compile a list.
<b>VBCPS Transition Advisory Committee Meeting (JoAnna Bryant/Kara Russell)</b>	A meeting was held in February.
<b>SECEP Joint Board Meeting</b> <b>Representative(s)</b>	Dr. Green announced the next SECEP meeting. Carolyn announced that Dr. Green will be retiring at the end of the school year.

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<b>VBCPS Curriculum for Students with Moderate to Severe Disabilities Committee</b> <b>SEAC Rep: JoAnna Bryant</b>	JoAnna expressed her disappointment that a curriculum guide for moderate to severe disabilities students is not yet established. Chereese Jenks asked if the Curriculum committee would attend one of the SEAC meetings. Dr. Wood confirmed she will have Jennifer Stratton to attend the next meeting. One member asked—how are these two words ( <i>moderate to severe</i> ) defined? All members with questions and concerns were asked to direct them to Chereese Jenks by Monday, February 21, 2011. Sandy made a motion to incorporate the curriculum in the Annual Report; the motion was seconded by Chereese Jenks. All were in favor.
<b>School Board Representative</b>	No report/activity reported.

**Old Business**

A lengthy discussion about special education visitor parking vs. visitor’s parking at Princess Anne High school followed. Cheryl Ward made a motion that a letter be sent to PAHS requesting that the parking sign be changed to reflect “**visitor parking**”, instead of SPED visitor parking. The motion was seconded by Chereese Jenks. All members were in favor.

**New Business**

1. Flyers for the Evening Meeting scheduled for March 14, 2011 will be revised and distributed.
2. One parent spoke about the difficulty for her child to access textbook online and expressed the need for textbooks to be provided for students with disability at home as it is a resource. A lengthy discussion followed. The committee agreed that no child must prove their poor performance due to a lacking of material before they get the help/resources they need. Global issues can be more than just one student and can cause a physical/strain on the student. Kara made a motion to notify Dr. Wood that this is a global issues. JoAnna seconded the motion, all members were in favor.

**Other Business**

Review of Public Comment:

- A. Allison Jordan will follow up with the parent and respond to her issues.
- B. Dr. Brenda Reid will provide response to the parent.

Allison Jordan informed the committee of a grant the department was in the process of applying for and was soliciting a letter of support from the SEAC committee both internally and externally. Sandy Hermann move to make a motion for a three year program, Chereese Jenks seconded the motion, all members were favor.

Reading and Approval of the Minutes:

Corrections were made to November, December and January’s minutes. JoAnna Bryant made a motion to approve the minutes, Cheryl Ward seconded the motion, all were in favor that the minutes be approved with corrections.

The meeting was adjourned by Kara Russell at 12:00 noon.

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Next SEAC Meeting: March 14 (Evening Meeting), 2011 ■ 6:30 p.m-9:00 p.m. at Landstown High School  
2001 Concert Drive ■ Room: Schola (757) 263-2400