

Special Education Advisory Committee
Virginia Beach City Public Schools
 Approved SEAC Minutes – March 12, 2012

Attendance

Members Present:	Sandy Hermann, Kara Russell, Cherese Jenks, Rayna Amoreno, JoAnna Bryant, Ping Camano, Deborah Dougherty, Beth Jones, Carolyn Stark, Cheryl Ward
Members Absent:	DRS, Donna Robel
Consultants Present:	Suzie Kumpf, Allison Jordan, Dr. Brenda Reid, Dr. Daisy Wood
Consultants Absent:	Rusty Fairheart
Guests:	Wayne Varney, Jane DeBord, Nikki Moore, Nancy Lebbery, Carol Brubaker, Sherry Tiaba, Mary Mc Entee, Cliff Hatt, Gay Thomas, Ivy Kennedy, Abraham Abenojar, Wilma White, Dana Teager, Michele Hopkins, Sharon Gardner, Chris Cahoon, Shirlene Imperial, Elissa Waldman-Sison, Kathi Sedel, Tabitha Gilbut, Maria Neidrick, Christine Drescher, Georgie P. Raymond, Bonnie Rose, Becca Rose, Samaria Joyner
Quorum Present:	Yes

Welcome/Introductions

The meeting commenced at 6:47PM, with Sandy Hermann welcoming everyone present. Individual introductions were made around the room.

Public Comment

Sherry Tiaba:

She expressed concern that the SEAC membership process was lengthy, unclear and discriminatory specific to her SEAC membership request. She indicated that it had taken 6-8 weeks for her request, Letter of Intent had been given to SEAC on March 1st, discriminatory due to identifying her child as a minority in her Letter of Intent for membership, and formal complaint would be filed.

She expressed concern regarding a non-specific transportation issue at Ocean Lakes High School that did not pertain to her child but felt it was a systemic issue.

<u>Announcements</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sandy requested all Subcommittee's hold reports until April unless there is a time sensitive concern. - Cherese Jenks indicated Syracuse University had contacted Dr. Reid requesting the use of the Disability History and Awareness month proposal provided to the division and prepared by the Disability History and Awareness Sub-committee. She also, announced that someone from the Chesapeake SEAC requested a copy for their SEAC to model from. Mrs. Jenks thanked Cheryl Ward and Dr. Reid for their hard work and
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	commitment. Allison Jordan commented participation in Disability History and Awareness month is a goal for the division.
<u>Correspondence</u>	- Kara received a letter of SEAC resignation from Jan Solock and a request for SEAC membership from Sherry Tiaba.

Reports

Agency reports held until April due to evening presentation.

SEAC Standing Subcommittees

Membership Subcommittee Chair: Kara Russell	- A reminder that the next meeting will be held March 14, 2012, in the Parent Information Center at the Laskin Road Annex at 9AM.
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Policy Review Subcommittee Chair: Sandy Hermann	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The annual plan was reviewed. The main recommendation was regarding funding and the Cost Per Student formula. - Dr. Wood indicated it will be on the School Board agenda for the meeting on April 24th. - Cheresse Jenks made a motion for SEAC be placed on the agenda for that meeting to make public comment on the Annual Plan. Kara Russell seconds the motion.
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OLD Business

Companion Service Animal Policy Update – Will discuss in April

SECEP Program Name Update – No ideas received from members

Inclusion Subcommittee Response – Allison Jordan will provide in April

Complaint/Audit DOE Report – Discuss at April meeting

Federal Monitoring Report – Discuss at April meeting

District Management Council of Boston Report – Discuss at April meeting

New Business

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Membership Subcommittee Meeting – Next meeting to be held 3/14/12 to discuss SEAC new membership request, resignation, and openings.

State SEAC/SEAC Chair meeting - Sandy Hermann announced that there was a SSEAC meeting for Region 2 held on March 6th. Sandy was there representing the SSEAC. Cherese Jenks participated as the Chair representative for Virginia Beach. FOIA presentation was provided to all in attendance.

People First Language presentation – Sandy Hermann, SEAC - Sandy Hermann gave a presentation on People First Language.

Disability History and Awareness presentation – Cherese Jenks, SEAC – Cherese Jenks gave a presentation on disability history with an exercise with the audience showing how negative descriptors can influence ones perception of an individual. She identified to parents and administrators the importance of painting a positive picture of an individual when writing an IEP.

What is Special Education – Service or Place? – Allison Jordan, Office of Programs for Special Education – Allison Jordan gave a presentation on Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)

Other Business – No additional business identified

Review of Public Comment

Sherry Tiaba:

Much discussion by SEAC on SEAC Membership request process and forms utilized. Verbal clarification received from Ms Tiaba of her public comment. No written public comment received.

SEAC will follow-up on the progress of the Effectiveness Subcommittee review of all membership forms compared to the bylaws. Cheryl Ward requested a timeline of e-mail communication of Ms. Tiaba's membership request from the Membership Sub-committee for review during upcoming Effectiveness Subcommittee meeting. Kara Russell will prepare and provide it to SEAC Effectiveness Subcommittee.

SEAC determined that no action could be taken on the transportation concern since no specific details were provided. SEAC recently reviewed the transportation manuals and offered recommendations to the division. The draft transportation manual with SEAC recommendations is currently being finalized.

Mrs. Jenks clarified with Ms. Tiaba that no further action or information was necessary to address her public comment.

Next SEAC Meeting: April 16, 2012 ■ 9:00 a.m. at the Special Education Annex, Room 25