

Special Education Advisory Committee

Virginia Beach Public Schools

Approved SEAC Minutes - October 5, 2009

Attendance

Present Members:	Joanna Bryant, Ping Camano, Sandra Hermann, Bonita Lyman, Sharon LaVier, Lisa Parker, Kara Russell, Carolyn Stark, Marianne Stinson, Cheryl Ward
Absent Members:	Beth Callahan (TCC), Kathy Major, Doral Jackson, Jan Solock
Consultants Present:	Robert Mitchell, Brenda Reid (OPEC), Daisy Wood (OPEC)
Consultants Absent:	Norman Brown, Dr. Judith Green, Suzie Kumpf
Guests:	Deborah Dougherty, Veronica Ellis, Deirdre Fisher, Chereese Jenks, Anita Mundy, Sara MacDonald, Jennifer Stratton, Carolyn Weems
Quorum Present:	Yes

Welcome/Introductions

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

Public Comment

There was no public comment

<u>Announcements</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Lisa Parker announced a “Pig Roast” to be held in Williamsburg, Virginia at the Pottery Campground Shelter on October 10, 2009 at 10:00AM. An opportunity for the deaf community to get together and socialize. Email information will be sent to Sandy Hermann, for those interested in attending.▪ Sun Wheelers will be performing at Hermitage ES, October 16, 2009. There will be two sessions—first session begins at 9:30AM; the second session begins at 11:45AM., which is geared for older students. A time will be designated for questions and answers.▪ The AMC Entertainment and the Autism Society of America have teamed up to offer families affected by autism a special opportunity to enjoy their favorite films. The entertainment will be on a monthly basis, and will begin on Saturday, October 17, 2009, at 10:00AM to 9:00PM, 2009.▪ Congratulations! — Sandy Hermann was appointed to the State SEAC committee as an advocate for our area.
<u>Correspondence</u>	No activity was reported.

Reports

Bob Mitchell/Daisy Woods OPEC	Mr. Mitchell reported that OPEC will be doing a mass mailing via US mail to all parents of SPED children; the contents that will be sent are: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) <i>Your Family's SPED Education Rights</i>2) <i>The Parent Quick Reference Guide</i>3) <i>2009 Community Resource Fair flyer, and</i>4) <i>The Dialogue</i>
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<p>VBDHS: Va Beach Infant Program & ID Department</p>	<p>ID Case managers are bombarded with at least thirty cases; this is beyond the norm of cases they should handle. Afternoon PALS programs are scheduled for adults and young adults who are in transition and those waiting for waivers. There are openings in both programs. During the month of September:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 311 - Infant Program Enrollment ▪ 27 - Discharges ▪ Number of students discharged who will attend VB preschool-13
<p>Beth Callahan TCC</p>	<p>No activity was reported.</p>
<p>Carolyn Stark Parks & Recreation</p>	<p>This past summer program was a huge success. Come fall the center is planning to serve over 100 participants. There are two afterschool programs at the Kempsville Recreation Center. A new program was introduced called “<i>Just Wanna Dance</i>”. Learn to swim, another program, will be offered for all ages this fall. Transportation will not be provided.</p>
<p>Parent Support and Information Center Dr. Brenda Reid</p>	<p>Dr. Reid reported that September 12 – October 2, 2009, forty-one calls and four emails were received in the center along with three visits. Dr. Reid also provided a display at Plaza MS open house, attended three IEP meetings and conducted a presentation at Hermitage ES.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Saturday, October 17 at 4:00PM, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor-Hurrah Players at TCC Roper Performing Arts Center ▪ Tidewater Autism Summit will be hosting an event at the Double Tree Hotel/VA Beach Convention Center, October 19 starting at 12:00 to 4:00PM. The event is free and open to the public ▪ Military Family Information night will be at Hermitage ES on October 19, 2009 from 6:30 to 7:45PM ▪ Parent Happy Hour and Discussion – will be held at the Laskin Road Annex on October 28, 2009 at 12:00 to 1:00PM. Topic of discussion “<i>How to interpret the Everyday Math Grading System for Student with Special Needs</i>”. Parent Happy Hour/Discussion will be conducted on a monthly basis.
<p>Doral Jackson K. Major/Bonita Lyman Dept. of Rehab. Services (DRS)</p>	<p>Two categories are currently open, Category I and II and intakes are being conducted in all the high schools.</p>
<p>Cheryl Ward Endeppendence Center</p>	<p>Cheryl attended the state SEAC meeting, and informed the committee that there will be some proposed changes to the ADA Regulations. Each member received a handout with the proposed changes. Cheryl also shared that the Alexandria school Annual Report was posted on YouTube; she encouraged committee members to visit their site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A PIER meeting is scheduled for November 14, the presenter will be Amy Courtney; discussion will be on—Understanding Assessments. ▪ ECI will begin an 8-month series of courses entitled “Traveling the Path to Freedom. Each month a new topic will be discussed with a follow-up to review community interactions. ▪ There will be a candidate debate at Maryview Hospital, 2nd floor meeting room. Matthew James and Jennifer Lee will be presenting, the topics of discussion: Issues facing older Virginians and Adults with Disabilities.

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SEAC Standing Subcommittees

Membership Subcommittee Chair: Kara Russell	No activity was reported, a meeting is scheduled for today immediately after the SEAC meeting.
Policy Review Subcommittee Chair: Sandy Hermann	Daisy Wood will be sending an email to Sandy Herman re: Policies and Regulations governing the Learning Plan. The Administrative Guideline is in review.

SEAC Ad Hoc Subcommittees

SEAC Effectiveness Chair: Joanna Bryant	No activity was reported.
Minority Review Subcommittee Chair: Cheryl Ward	Lists of goals were presented to the committee: 1) The committee's goals are to improve the academic performance of African American males, and suggested a similar set of goals be designed and implemented for student with disabilities. 2) Present most current performance data to SEAC that identifies performance and achievement gaps for students with disabilities, and to identify which schools have been most successful in closing the gap. 3) Review and report on graduation/dropout/age-out data regarding students with disabilities, 4) Develop a list of data reports needed to be reported to SEAC committee on an annual basis, and design a timeline for report presentations to SEAC.
Annual Report Committee Chair: Sandy Hermann	No activity was reported.
By-Law Review Chair: Cheryl Ward	The committee is waiting to hear from the school lawyer.

SEAC Representatives

Va Beach Employment Transition Connection Representative(s)	No activity was reported.
SECEP Joint Board Meeting Representative(s)	There was a discussion regarding the different uniforms that are being worn at the Renaissance Academy, and that SECEP parents were not notified that kids would be in uniform. Cheresse Jenks, a parent expressed concern that she was uncomfortable to know that students have to wear different uniforms for different programs and believed this as a form of segregation, which is a big problem for children with disabilities and could possible put them at risk of being picked on/harassed. Daisy Wood implied that the different colors were to differentiate student's improvement on a case by case. Sandy Hermann asked Carolyn Weems, School Board Member, to address the issue at the next Board meeting and to notify the committee of the real reason.
School Board	No activity was reported.

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Representative	
VBCPS Curriculum for Students with Moderate to Severe Disabilities Committee SEAC Rep: Joanna Bryant	The Committee met and discussed in depth a program that addressed the majority of ASOLs and they felt applied to the students with moderate intellectual disabilities. It was suggested that this program be considered as a Pilot Program for the fall for an interested teacher of students with moderate intellectual disabilities. Sandy Herman suggested that the Office of Curriculum and Instruction should be involved in initiating a curriculum and designing/adapting a curriculum that is tailored to accommodate students with moderate to severe disabilities. Mr. Mitchell recommended pulling some teachers together next summer to form a committee to begin working on a curriculum geared for the SPED population.

Old Business

- A. October – designated Disability Awareness Month
- B. The Meet and Greet will be held at Virginia Beach Higher Education Center, in Room 226, October 21, 2009; from 6:00 – 7:30 PM. Flyers were sent home to all SPED students. Sandy Hermann gave each committee member a handful of Meet and Greet/Community Resource Fair flyers and asked members to advertise and promote as much as possible,
- D. 117 Vendor letters were sent to all prospective vendors for the Community Resource Fair.

New Business

- A. Sandy asked the committee their preference for the meeting agenda, preferably the Q/A format for the upcoming Meet and Greet – Members responded in favor of using the index cards
- B. Sandy reminded committee members that volunteers are still needed for the upcoming November Community Fair
- C. Ping is hoping to receive surveys from some of the schools to see how they can improve and expand on their efforts of celebrating disability history and awareness month next year. Some of the activities are as follows:
 - Kemps Landing Magnet launched marquee announcement
 - Flyers were posted in hallways
 - ODC Video “KID ABILITY” will be shown in individual classroom
 - Grade 5 Language Arts teacher had students write their ideas and design the possibility of having a boundless playground in their school.
 - Disability books are displayed in the library and student and teachers are encouraged to check them out.
- D. Videotaping some of the disability awareness activities this year could support and provide ideas for others to use next year during disability history and awareness month
- E. Sandy Herman passed out a sign in sheet for committee members to sign up to attend the monthly School Board meetings.

Review of Public Comment:

No public comments for review

Committee members watched Part II presentation of—The Roberts Rules of Order Training.

Reading and Approval of the Minutes:

Corrections made to the September 2009 Draft minutes:

- ❖ Page 1: Brenda Reid and Karen Webb’s names were duplicated(corrected),

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- ❖ Bob Mitchell/Daisy Wood, the word *finally* was removed from reports section- to read *The SPED Parent Quick Reference Guide* is completed.
- ❖ Page 2: Under Beth Callahan TCC –
 - the word materials was removed and replaced with documentation
 - Cheryl Ward – Endependence Center - correction made to PIER
 - Will be hosted was removed and replaced with – the presenter will be...
 - Annual Report Committee – The word unfortunately was removed from sentence.
- ❖ Page 3: Minority Review – had none, was changed to No activity was reported.
SEAC Effectiveness: The second sentence was removed and replaced with- The committee will review content of community Representative reports at their next meeting.
 - By-Laws Review – approve was removed and vote on proposed bylaws was added.
- ❖ *Minutes approved with corrections.*

Meeting Adjourned

Next SEAC Meeting

November 9, 2009 ■ 6:30 p.m. at Landstown High School, Community Resource Fair,
Virginia Beach, VA 23453 ■ (757) 263-2400