

Special Education Advisory Committee
Virginia Beach Public Schools
 Approved SEAC Minutes – October 4, 2010

Attendance

Present Members:	Melissa Barnett, JoAnna Bryant, Ping Camano, Deborah Dougherty, Sandy Hermann, Cheresse Jenks, Sara MacDonald, Laura Moran, Lisa Parker, Kara Russell, Jan Solock, Carolyn Stark, Dianna Swenson, Cheryl Ward
Absent Members:	Beth Callahan, DRS,
Consultants Present:	Dr. Brenda Reid (OPEC), Suzie Kumpf, Dr. Daisy Wood (OPEC)
Consultants Absent:	Norman Brown, Dr. Judith Green
Guests:	Ann Abraham, Wanda Byrd, Christine Chewing, Veronica Ellis, Deidre Fisher, Kim Hackforth, Ann Long, Brook Markley
Quorum Present:	Yes

Welcome/Introductions

The meeting began at 9:10 AM, with Kara Russell welcoming everyone present and calling for introductions.

Public Comment

There was one public comment.

- 1 Christine Chewing shared two issues
 - a. She expressed her concerns with the Virginia Beach educational programs and services for families with children with autism, she indicated how frustrating it is to find what programs and services are available
 - b. The current procedure for assigning special education classrooms prior to the start of school. She feels that the two weeks is not enough time for notification.

<u>Announcements</u>	<p>SEAC Member: Kara Russell (Chairperson)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Distributed a flyer and a notification letter from the Regional Director of Boy Scouts of America. They have free tickets for children with special needs to attend the <i>Scout Fest</i>, to be held on Saturday, October 16, 2010 at the Virginia Beach Amphitheater. <p>SEAC Member: Cheryl Ward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ First PIER meeting/workshop is scheduled for October 13, 2010, beginning at 6:30 PM at the Endependence Center. Keynote speaker, Jeff Phenicie from VDOE. His presentation will feature the various Virginia education assessments, such as SOLs, VGLA, and the VAAP. <p>SEAC Consultant: Dr. Brenda Reid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parent Support and Information Center will host its first Commonwealth Parent Workshop at Landstown High School October 13, 2010. Beginning at 6:30 PM. Keynote speaker, Irene Moore, from Parenet Educational Advocacy Training Center.
<u>Correspondence</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kara received correspondence from interested persons in reference to the teacher vacancy that is currently available on the Virginia Beach Special Education Advisory Committee. Kara also received two teachers' names from Jennifer Stratton to be considered as candidates for the position.

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Reports

Daisy Woods, OPEC	Dr. Wood discussed the process of selecting a teacher representative to join the SEAC committee. Discussions took place as to possible criteria for the teacher representative. Sandy Hermann made a motion for the AD Hoc Effectiveness and Bylaws committee to establish guidelines on how a teacher representative can be appointed for membership consideration. Cheryl Ward was appointed to conduct this assignment and to notify the other members by way of email by Friday, October 8, 2010. Chereese Jenks second the motion, all members were in favor.
VBDHS: VaBeach Infant Program & Dept	Department is transitioning from traditional Individual Services Plans (ISP) to Person Centered Plans PALS I/PALS II. PALS I afterschool program has transitioned from summer camp program to regular after school care. Referrals for the after school program are being considered for November 2010. Applications for Behavioral Specialist I are currently being reviewed.
Carolyn Stark Parks & Recreation	Interviews for the Recreation Specialist I Position are under way. Winter registration begins Saturday, January 8, 2011 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Kempsville Recreation Center. The Therapeutic Recreation Newsletter is now available.
Parent Support and Information Center	<p>Parent Support and Information Center: Dr. Brenda Reid September 13 – October 4/ Center Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Attended five IEP/504 meetings with parents ➤ PTA Open House/Meet & Greet display was presented at Holland and Luxford, Elementary, Larkspur and , Plaza Middle and at Landstown and Green Run HS ➤ Packets (inclusive of flyer and information) are to be distributed to Pediatricians offices in Virginia Beach in the upcoming weeks.
Cheryl Ward Endeppence Center	The Endeppence Center is now on FACEBOOK. The first PIER meeting is scheduled for October 13. The meeting will begin at 6:30 PM. The speaker will be from VDOE. Two Waiver workshops for this area are scheduled for November 3, 2010 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. and November 13, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Both will be at the Endeppence Center.

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SEAC Ad Hoc Subcommittees:

SEAC Effectiveness Chair: Joanna Bryant	JoAnna talked about the two upcoming events, the meet, greet and chat to be held at the Central Library on October 6, and the Community Resource Fair scheduled for November 8, 2010 at Landstown High School. Flyers for both events were sent home via the print shop.
Disability Awareness Subcommittee Cherese Jenks	Ms. Jenks announced that art contests from the elementary schools will be on display at Pembroke Mall from October 18 – 31, 2010. Eleven thousand dollars is on hand for prize awards. Judges from the professional and disability community will evaluate each exhibit on a point basis. Dr. Wood informed Ms. Jenks that the schools were notified that she is the contact person; however Dr. Reid will receive the packets from each school and deliver them to Ms. Jenks.
By-Law Review Chair: Cheryl Ward	Three changes were made to the By-Laws. Each member will receive a copy upon completion.

SEAC Representatives

Va Beach Employment Transition Connection Representative(s)	A meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 7, 2010 in Portable 4 from 9:00 – 11:00 AM
VBCPS Curriculum for Students with Moderate to Severe Disabilities Committee SEAC Rep: Joanna Bryant	Daisy notified the committee that a sample packet of a curriculum guide was purchased inclusive of Reading, Math and Everyday Skills and will be used in one elementary classroom. Wayne Varney will be communicating with Wilma White and a meeting will be scheduled sometime in the weeks ahead.

Old Business

- A. SEAC Draft By-Laws discussed.
- B. Executive Committee Job Descriptions—cannot move forward until By-Laws are completed. All members were encouraged to contact JoAnna with any feedback relating to the “other responsibilities” of the job description.
- C. Teacher Representative—following a lengthy discussion, Sandy Hermann made a motion for the Ad Hoc Effectiveness and Bylaws committee, to establish some guidelines on how a teacher representative can be appointed to become a member of the SEAC committee. Cheryl Ward was selected to handle this assignment and to notify the other members by way of email by Friday, October 8, 2010. Cherese Jenks second the motion, all members were in favor. All four letters from interested persons were delivered to Jan Solock. Sandy made another motion that all four candidates will be notified and have them attend the SEAC fair scheduled for November 8, 2010, at which point each candidate will give a brief synopsis of their interest to serve on the committee, the motion was seconded by JoAnna Bryant. All members were in favor. Kara then read to confirm the members name from the two committee, (Ad Hoc By-Laws and Effectiveness committee).

New Business

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- A. The response letter from Mr. Crum was read by Dr. Reid. Several members expressed their dissatisfaction on some of the responses made. A lengthy discussion regarding the responses followed. Cheryl Ward indicated that sometimes a substitute bus is sent which might not be adequately furnished with the proper equipment, due to a problem with the regular bus. Sandy made a motion to establish an Ad Hoc commit to identify the transportation problems; Diana Swenson second the motion and was tasked to take on this assignment. It was suggested that all concerns be sent to Diana.
- B. **Appointment and Reappointment**—Letters and Bios from Ping Camano requesting re-appointment and Rayna Amoreno requesting appointment to SEAC will be submitted at the October 19, 2010 Board Meeting
- C. **Tidewater Community College**—Due to the number of meeting absences from TCC representative Beth Callahan, the committee discussed what means and actions can be taken for TCC to remain a member on the committee. At a previous meeting TCC representative Beth Callahan had expressed the demands on her time, resulting to her absences. Jan Solock was tasked to consult with Ms. Callahan to see if it would be best for TCC to serve as a consultant and provide a monthly report to the committee. The committee will be notified of the conversation at its next meeting.

Other Business

Current Public Comment:

- A. Review of Current Public Comment—Lack of information regarding the programs and services and educational programs for families with autism. The current procedure of a two week notification prior to the start of school of special education classroom assignments in not enough time. Dr. Reid was assigned to get the answers to the following questions and get back to the committee at its next meeting.
 - 1. How is information disseminated to parents?
 - 2. What is the process and timeline for class assignment?

Past Months Public Comment:

- A. Kara asked Ms. Kumpf if Dr. Drew was satisfied with the response she received. She indicated “yes”

Reading and Approval of the Minutes:

Cherese Jenks made a motion to approve September’s minutes with corrections. Cheryl Ward seconded. The minutes were approved with corrections

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

Next SEAC Meeting

November 8, 2010 ■ 8:30 p.m. at Landstown High School,
Virginia Beach, VA 23456 ■ (757) 263-2400