

**Special Education Advisory Committee**  
**Virginia Beach City Public Schools**  
 Final SEAC Minutes – Oct 3, 2011

**Attendance**

Present Members:	Sandy Hermann, Sara MacDonald, Rayna Amoreno, JoAnna Bryant, Elizabeth Jones, Carolyn Stark, Cheryl Ward
Absent Members:	Kara Russell, Ping Camano, Deborah Dougherty, Chereese Jenks, Jan Solock, DRS, VBDHS
Consultants Present:	SECEP, Suzie Kumpf, Dr. Brenda Reid, Dr. Daisy Wood, Allison Jordan
Consultants Absent:	Jennifer Stratton
Guests:	Tom Dougherty, Jussette Odom, Suzi Noyes, Wayne Varney, Donna Robel
Quorum Present:	No

**Welcome/Introductions**

The meeting commenced at 9:15 AM, with Sandy Hermann welcoming everyone present. Sandy briefly explained the role of the volunteer committee. She also reminded everyone of meeting guidelines including the guidelines for public comment. Around the room individual introductions were made.

**Public Comment**

No public comments were made. However, Tom Dougherty asked if he could ask a quick question, which was permitted. Mr. Dougherty asked if placement decisions were made by the AP or the IEP team. Allison Jordan responded saying that the IEP team makes the decision based on a student's strengths and weaknesses.

<b><u>Announcements</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Reid passed a flyer for the Tidewater Autism Summit to be held October 15th.</li> <li>• JoAnna Bryant discussed the Fall 2011 Kohl's Cares Family Forum free lecture series on children's health and wellness; brochures were available.</li> <li>• JoAnna Bryant also discussed the CHKD Chronic Illness Conference to be held November 19th.</li> <li>• Sandy Hermann asked SEAC members to view Kathy Snow's website where she thanks SEAC member, Chereese Jenks for all her work in the area of disability awareness.</li> <li>• Sandy Hermann discussed a regional initiative to better plan for persons with special needs in the event of an emergency. Families can register on-line at hrspecialneeds.org. She also had a few mail-in registration brochures available. Allison Jordan asked about the 1 million dollar grant and the purpose of the grant. Sandy stated that there were 16 jurisdictions involved and the only purpose of the grant was to create a registry.</li> </ul>
<b><u>Correspondence</u></b>	Sara MacDonald stated she had received an email from Bonita Pope stating she was transferring to the DRS Lynchburg office.

**Reports**

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**Virginia Beach City Public Schools**  
 Final SEAC Minutes – Oct 3, 2011

<b>Allison Jordan, OPEC</b>	Allison Jordan stated that attempts to move up the recommended turn in date for the Virginia ASOL were overturned. The turn in date is now back to its original mid-May date.
<b>Dept. Parks and Rec. Carolyn Stark</b>	Carolyn Stark distributed a copy of her therapeutic recreation program registration numbers. She announced the Winter/Spring registration date of January 7th. She discussed that based on survey results, parents would like to have resource groups presenting on various topics. A copy of the Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation Programs & Activities Fall 2011 was also provided to the SEAC; the guide now includes information on Inclusion Support Services.
<b>Parent Support and Information Center Dr. Brenda Reid</b>	Dr. Brenda Reid distributed a copy of her report for the month of September. Activities for the month included the PEATC Lunchtime Seminar, "Autism and the Military Child", a Parent Happy Hour on Smart IEP Goals, and the "I'm Determined Fall Networking Event". Dr. Reid spoke highly of the I'm Determined program which teaches self-advocacy to students. The website is <a href="http://www.imdetermined.org">www.imdetermined.org</a> . She also provided information on upcoming events included future dates and subjects for the PEATC Lunchtime Learning Series, and Parent Happy Hours. For more information please contact Dr. Reid at 263-2066 or by email <a href="mailto:Brenda.Reid@vbschools.com">Brenda.Reid@vbschools.com</a> .
<b>Dept. of Rehab. (DRS)</b>	No report/activity reported.
<b>Cheryl Ward Endeppence Center</b>	Cheryl Ward stated there were over 1000 people at the rally in Washington DC for Medicaid Reform on 9/21/2011. This included over 65 people in a group from the Endeppence Center. In an effort to protect Medicaid Waivers, the group met with 12 members of a super committee looking at ways to cut Medicaid. She mentioned that there would be no Pier Meeting in October.
<b>VBDHS: Melissa Barnett</b>	No report/activity reported.
<b>Jennifer Stratton C&amp;I</b>	No report/ activity reported.

**SEAC Standing Subcommittees**

<b>Membership Subcommittee Chair: Kara Russell</b>	No report/ activity reported.
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<b>Policy Review Subcommittee Chair: Sandy Hermann</b>	No policies have come forward therefore the subcommittee has not met.
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**SEAC Ad Hoc Subcommittees:**

<b>SEAC Effectiveness Chair: JoAnna Bryant</b>	JoAnna Bryant stated that two new members still required their SEIC binders. Sandy Hermann mentioned that Maria Everet offered to provide training on the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) regulations. Sandy Hermann also mentioned that the State SEAC will have resources available for the local SEACs to borrow, for example the Roberts Rules of Order video.
<b>Disability Awareness Subcommittee Dr. Brenda Reid</b>	Dr. Reid had spoke with several principals about Disability Awareness Month and all had very positive feedback on the information the committee provided. The committee discussed how we could thank schools who participated in Disability Awareness Month. Allison Jordan agreed to work with Dr. Magula on recognizing the schools in the Superintendents report.
<b>Annual Report Committee Chair: Sara MacDonald</b>	The subcommittee met and progress is being made on the annual report. Sara mentioned that she is having difficulty completing the recommendation section.
<b>Transportation Subcommittee Carolyn Stark</b>	Allison Jordan provided a printed version of the manual for SEAC to review.
<b>Inclusion Subcommittee</b>	Deb Doughty cannot be the head of the subcommittee. However, Rayna Amoreno volunteered to be the new head of the subcommittee.

**SEAC Representatives**

<b>VBCPS Transition Advisory Committee Meeting (JoAnna Bryant/Kara Russell)</b>	No report/activity reported
<b>SECEP Joint Board Meeting Representative(s)</b>	The next meeting date will be in January.

<b>VBCPS Curriculum for Students with Moderate to Severe Disabilities Committee SEAC Rep: JoAnna Bryant</b>	<p>Discussion was held to determine if the SEAC committee should disband this subcommittee in light of the OPEC committee being disbanded. Dr. Wood disbanded the committee because curriculum should be the general education curriculum and modified to meet the students needs. While JoAnna Bryant agreed with Dr. Wood, she was concerned that the materials were not available to special education teachers, and possibly the subcommittee should stay together to examine this issue.</p> <p>Related to the topic, Dr. Wood stated that OPEC bought about 5 material sets. Two reading programs and three sets of supplemental materials. Teachers received training on October 3rd. Jennifer Stratton has offered to give SEAC an</p>
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	<p>overview of the materials that were purchased. JoAnna also asked that SEAC remained informed of the success of the programs and materials.</p> <p>Without a quorum present a vote on disbanding the committee was tabled.</p>
<b>School Board Representative</b>	No report/activity reported.

**OLD Business**

**SEAC Meet and Greet**

JoAnna Bryant reminded committee members that the Meet and Greet is 6:30pm on 11/2/11 at the Central Library. She asked everyone to distribute the flyers widely and do their best to advertise.

**Community Resource Fair**

JoAnna Bryant stated that over 160 vendors would be at the resource fair on 11/14/11. Again, she asked everyone to distribute the flyers widely and do their best to advertise.

**Companion Service Animal Policy**

Allison Jordan spoke with the city attorney and provided the Norfolk documentation with regards to service animals. The service animal policy has been changed to accommodate the miniature horses. The 10-day policy that Norfolk has is not in the Virginia Beach policy. Sandy Hermann asked that the policy review committee get a copy.

**New Business**

**Transitioning Between Schools (Pre-K to Kdg, Elementary to Middle, Middle to High)**

Sandy Hermann asked Dr. Wood what was being done to create a smoother transition between schools. Many SEAC Members stated that between schools a lot is lost within translation of an IEP. Dr. Wood stated that the Spring AP training will cover this topic. She also stated that it was part of Strategic Objective 3. Dr. Wood is included in a committee to determine ways to make the transition from elementary to middle school, and middle school to high school smoother. Some SEAC members felt the issue sometimes extends from grade to grade within a school. Dr. Wood stated that within a school this should not happen.

**Review of Past Public Comment**

Allison Jordan stated a committee of administrators including herself and Dr. Wood met to discuss how transportation could be streamlined. The voicemail issue the first week of school was discussed and they had intentionally not set up the voicemail because transportation knew they didn't have the number of personnel to return voicemail messages in a timely manner.

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Cheryl Ward moved to approve the September minutes with correction, JoAnna Bryant seconded. The meeting was adjourned by Sandy Hermann at 11:45 a.m.

Next SEAC Meeting: Nov 14th, 2011 ■ 8:30 p.m. Landstown High School immediately following the Resource Fair