

**Special Education Advisory Committee
Virginia Beach City Public Schools
SEAC Approved Minutes – October 8, 2012**

Attendance

Members Present :	Rayna Amoreno, Melissa Barnett, Carol Brubaker, JoAnna Bryant, Ping Camano, Deborah Dougherty, Sandy Hermann, Cherese Jenks, Donna Robel, Kara Russell, Cheryl Ward, Carolyn Stark
Members Absent:	
Consultants Present:	Rusty Fairheart-SECEP, Suzie Kumpf, Brenda Lenhart, Dr. Daisy Wood
Consultants Absent:	Allison Jordan
Guests:	Sheilah Davidson, Peaches Ellis, Danielle Good, Leslee Herring, Yolanda Jones-Howell, Cynthia Mosley, Eileen Ouelette, Tony Strawdorman, Violet Strawdorman, Sherry Tiaba, Carolyn Weems
Quorum Present:	Yes

Welcome/Introductions:

Chairperson Hermann convened the meeting at 9:02 AM. Individual introductions were made around the room.

Adoption of Agenda: The Chair called for a motion to adopt the agenda with corrections to move the Youth Leadership Forum presentation to the top of the agenda followed by the Synergy presentation.

Motion: Rayna Amoreno Seconded **by:** Cheryl Ward **Aye:** 7 **Nay:** 0—motion carried, the agenda is adopted.

Public Comment

There were two public comments made:

Suzie Kumpf – Present Level of Academics Achievement and Functional Performance (PLAAF), inquiry was about the new name for PLOP. Parent does not think questions are appropriate for student to answer alone, nor is information on either document necessary for the IEP.

Sherry Tiaba – Based on public comment given before hers, she said that she had to fill out a questionnaire she feels is inappropriate for her daughter, is concerned when public comments are summarized that it does not capture the nature of her issue, she is not happy with the characterization of her public comment about other students as hearsay, and that someone gave her daughter a bible between leaving the school and entering the school bus.

<u>Announcements</u>	There were no announcements.
<u>Correspondence</u>	Several correspondences regarding the upcoming community fair were received. Also received, was a letter for membership from Mrs. Sherry Tiaba which was read before the committee.

Reports

<p>Dr. Daisy Wood / Allison Jordan OPEC</p>	<p>Dr. Daisy Wood notified the committee that numbers for September count are coming in. OPEC coordinators are visiting their schools regularly and are gauging case load for allocating more support where needed. Federal funds from Title VI-B in the amount \$350,000 has been lost and sadly more will be lost for the next SY.</p>
<p>Melissa Barnett VBDHS</p>	<p>Applications are being accepted for afterschool and the adult day support program for individuals diagnosed with ID.</p>
<p>Cheryl Ward Endependence Center</p>	<p>Draft of proposed changes to the SOQ was passed to committee members for review.</p>
<p>Dept. Parks & Rec. Carolyn Stark</p>	<p>Parks and Recreation guides can be obtain from all centers or online at www.vbgov.com/parks . A new recreation center ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for Friday, October 26, 2012 at 4:00 PM at Williams Farm. Registration for Winter/Spring Swimming and Around Town program is scheduled for January 5, 2013 from 9:00 – 12:00 PM at the Kempsville Recreation Center. Summer Camp program registration begins March 9, 2013 at the Kempsville Recreation Center, 9:00-12:00. January 18, 2013 is reserved for “Sweet Night for Dinner and Dance” from 6-8:30 for participants who have joined the TR Programs within the year 2012. \$10.00 per person. Please register at the Kempsville Recreation Center beginning on January 5th. Call 474-8877 for more information.</p>
<p>Parent Support and Information Center Brenda Lenhart</p>	<p>A report for past month activities was distributed. Please contact Brenda Lenhart, in the Parent Support and Information Center at 263-2066 or by email Brenda.lenhart@vbschools.com for further information and for upcoming events.</p>
<p>Dept. of Rehab. (DRS)</p>	<p>No report or activity reported.</p>
<p>SECEP Joint Board Meeting Rusty Fairheart</p>	<p>SECEP, in partnership with VCU, has been awarded a 5 year project SEARCH grant. Project SEARCH is a work-based transition program for students with disabilities. Identified students will receive instruction in a real-world employment environment where they will learn all aspects of gaining and maintaining a job. The grant will focus on providing students with Autism the knowledge and skills necessary to obtain competitive post-secondary employment. The annual SECEP Fall Pig and Pansy Sale will be held Friday, October 19, from 11-1 PM at the Renaissance Academy and Friday, October 26, 2012 at Deep Creek SECEP Center in Chesapeake The events will run from 11:00 AM—4:00 PM.</p>
<p>Membership Subcommittee Chair: Rayna Amoreno</p>	<p>The committee met October 4, 2012</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discussion was based on membership expiration and absences. Members were encouraged to begin preparing their letters for reappointment, if interested, for consideration by Membership Subcommittee and SEAC, for submission to School Board in January. ▪ Members with three absences will receive a letter notifying them of possible removal.

SEAC Standing Subcommittees

<p>Policy Review</p>	<p>No report or activity reported.</p>
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Subcommittee Chair: Sandy Hermann	
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SEAC Ad Hoc Subcommittees:

SEAC Effectiveness Chair: JoAnna Bryant	Flyers for the Meet and Greet were distributed to each student receiving special education in VB schools. Meet and Greet went well. Community Resource Fair flyers will also be distributed to each student. Letters were sent out to 166 vendors to notify them of the upcoming fair. NJROTC cadets were also invited.
Student Performance Review Cheryl Ward	Next meeting is scheduled to immediately follow January SEAC meeting.
Disability Awareness Subcommittee Cherese Jenks	Met September 28 th at the Endependence Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prepared testimony for DHAM public comment to the School Board on October 2nd. ▪ Thank you notes are being prepared for the Autism Society of Tidewater, The Down Syndrome Association of Hampton Roads, the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities and the Laskin Road Annex Café for providing gratis for thank you gifts requested to support DHAM. ▪ Prepared a timeline of the committee’s efforts which date back 3 years. ▪ People First Language bookmark contest started today and runs through October 22nd. Entries will be on display at the SEAC Resource Fair Nov 5th. Patrons will vote on the semi-finalists. ▪ As per request from last meeting, a letter was sent to the School Board indicating rationale for DHAM resolution which included a copy of the 2010 resolution. Key Points: 1. YLF Pursued the Legislation 2. VDOE supports and worked in collaboration with YLF and organizations for people with disabilities. 3. National Disability Employment Month indicated need to support education.
Bylaws subcommittee Cheryl Ward	Bylaws are currently with the school attorney for review. The committee shared the new booklet style format they will be delivered in. The current bylaws were used to develop the new format. Cheryl indicated nothing in the current bylaws changed they were simply converted to a booklet format.
Annual Report Subcommittee	No report/activity reported.
Transportation Subcommittee Carolyn Stark	They are in the process of scheduling a meeting.
Inclusion Subcommittee Rayna Amoreno	No report/activity reported.
Bullying and Anti-Harassment Subcommittee Cherese Jenks	Met September 28 th at the Endependence Center. Will be reviewing the recommendations of the legislative study. Will send a request to OPEC for additional policy information.

SEAC Representatives

VBCPS Transition Advisory Committee Meeting (JoAnna Bryant/Kara Russell)	No meeting was held during past month.
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SECEP Joint Board Meeting

School Board Representative Rayna Amoreno	Sandy Hermann reported that several members attended the past School Board meeting in support of Disability History and Awareness Month. Members were able to make public comment on this topic, thanking the division for their support of this initiative. Jenks reported that there were several public comments on non-agenda items. Many acknowledged October as Disability History and Awareness Month in the first line of their testimony before moving into their personal agenda. Most were not very specific but, related to personal situations or back to a personnel issue regarding the firing of an assistant principal recently reported in the news. Mrs. Hermann reported that this same concern regarding personnel issues came up at the Meet and Greet and she advised the parent to attend this SEAC meeting to make public comment. She did not feel comfortable nor did he send her a public comment to convey the concern on his behalf at the SEAC meeting.
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OLD Business

Synergy Online IEP Update Presentation:

Shirlene Imperial concluded her presentation on Synergy Online IEP Update she shared in August, following questions from the committee that were answered satisfactorily. Some of the topics from the Power Point presentation were as follows:

1. Prior Written Notice for IEP
2. Ad Hoc Documents Continuous Updating
3. Process Doc’s Tab Info
4. Upgrades to the SEC Process
5. Synergy SE Usage

Rayna suggested that parents were concerned there was no longer a list for how goals are measured for parents to reference. Shirlene Imperial identified this as a training opportunity for parents and teachers. OPEC will continue to educate teachers. For parent training she recommended the Parent Resource and Information Center provide training on this topic. Cherese Jenks expressed concern that only a hand full of parents attend these trainings and questioned if this was the most effective method in a division which educates over 8,000 students with disabilities. Eileen Ouellette suggested a short video to be uploaded outlining the goals which could be viewed by all parents at their leisure, most members were in agreement.

New Business

Youth Leadership Forum (YLF)/Disability History and Awareness Presentation

Violet Strawdorman, alumni of Youth Leadership Forum and a student from ODU, addressed the committee following a Power Point presentation on the significance of Disability Awareness and why there is a need for more schools to be informed.

Ms. Strawdorman reiterated that disability is everywhere in history and should be taught in the classrooms. Disability affects 1/5 of all American, 1 in 10 people has a severe disability. The Virginia Department of Education served 172,704 students with disabilities under the Individual with Disability Education Act (IDEA). She said to ensure full inclusion of people with disabilities into society, public awareness needs to be increased. Ms. Strawdorman shared names of famous people with disabilities who inspired her to dream beyond what

society believed she was capable of as a person with a disability. To name a few: Franklin Roosevelt (polio), Albert Einstein (ADHD) and Judith Huemann. Ms. Strawdorman and her group are in the process of writing a proposal for submission to Senator Mark Warner.

SEAC Membership Vote:

To move the membership request of Sherry Tiaba forward to the School Board.

Aye: 0 Nay: 8 Abstention: 2, Melissa Barnett, JoAnna Bryant

Motion does not pass; Mrs. Tiaba's membership request will not be moved forward to the School Board.

Community Resource Fair.

Chairperson Hermann distributed Community Resource Fair flyers among the members and asked everyone present to distribute them in as many different places as possible. Approximately 100 vendors/organizations will be present. People First Language bookmark contest begins today through October 22nd. Bookmarks will be on display and voted on during the Fair.

Other Business - None

Review of Public Comment

Current Public Comment

Suzie Kumpf: There was some discussion about the questions asked of students that Mrs. Kumpf wasn't clear on. Mrs. Jenks felt it may be in reference to a life skills assessment given to students as part of the transition process. Sandy Hermann requested a copy of the life skills assessment questionnaire for SEAC to review before proceeding further. OPEC agreed to provide this.

Mrs. Tiaba: Mrs. Tiaba mentioned she has had a similar experience regarding the issue brought forward in public comment by a committee member with regards to a questionnaire given to students by teachers as a method to obtain information. Mrs. Tiaba informed us she contacted her SEAC coordinator but we believe she meant to say she contacted her OPEC coordinator regarding this issue.

Mrs. Tiaba remains unsatisfied with SEAC's policy of summarizing public comment versus verbatim capture in minutes, remains dissatisfied with contents of summaries of her public comments, as well as SEAC's request for written public comment be submitted at the time public comment is given and feels that the verbal and written guidelines given to her and others at meetings and community events are not adequate. Mrs. Tiaba has admitted that the committee has clarified this process repeatedly for her and that she has received the form physically and electronically. She is aware of the process but has chosen not to follow it, based on her practice over the last year and statements she has publically made at meetings. She has notified the committee that she does not have time to prepare remarks in advance and her preferred method has been to not submit written comments at all or to submit written comments at some later time after the meeting is adjourned. Chairperson Hermann reiterated again, the importance of providing written public comments at the time public comment is made. Again, she requested all public comments be provided in writing, at the time of providing the comment. SEAC cannot allow written public comment to be submitted after the fact, especially when that comment does not match what was given verbally at the meeting. (See previous correspondence exchange pertaining to this topic) Explanations were given, as have been done at past meetings, that summaries are the method of recording minutes identified in Roberts Rules of Order and followed by numerous committees throughout the country. SEAC will continue to follow current policy as outlined in SEAC bylaws and Roberts Rules of Order. SEAC requested Dr. Wood look into the possibility of placing SEAC's public comment policy on the Virginia Beach website.

Mrs. Tiaba mentioned that her daughter was approached by men from “the woods” while in route to board her school bus and her daughter was given a small bible by these men. Further questioning by SEAC members for clarity asked Mrs. Tiaba for additional information, such as the location of the incident, on or off school grounds, and if the men were on or off school grounds. She responded that she did not know. When asked if she had contacted the administration at her school building, she responded that she had contacted Dr. Massey. Since Mrs. Tiaba has contacted the administration regarding her concerns, SEAC determined there is no further action required by their committee.

Past Month Public Comment

No further action was necessary in reference to Sherry Tiaba’s past public comments.

Reading and Approval of Minutes

Motion: Cherese Jenks motioned to approve August minutes with corrections. **Seconded by:** Cheryl Ward
Aye: 7 Nay: 0. September’s minutes were approved with corrections.

Adjournment: There being no further business before the committee, Sandy Hermann moved to adjourn the meeting, **Seconded by** Melissa Barnett. **Aye: All present Nay: 0** The meeting was adjourned by Sandy Hermann at 12:00 PM.

Next SEAC Meeting: November 5, 2012 ■ 9:00 a.m. at the Special Education Annex, Room 25