

Special Education Advisory Committee
Virginia Beach Public Schools
 Approved SEAC Minutes – November 10, 2010

Attendance

Present Members:	Sara MacDonald, Joanna Bryant, Lisa Parker, Rayna Amoreno, Deborah Dougherty, Dianna Swenson, Cheryl Ward, Ping Camano, Sandra Hermann, Chereese Jenk , Laura Moran, Kara Russell, Jan Solock
Absent Members:	(DRS), Maureen Gibson, Bonita Lyman, Rod Curry, Beth Callahan (TCC), Carolyn Stark (Parks and Rec)
Consultants Present:	Brenda Reid (OPEC), Dr. Daisy Wood (OPEC), Norman Brown
Consultants Absent:	Suzie Kumpf, Dr. Judith Green
Guests:	Chris Chewning, John Chewning, Ann Abraham, Jen Alvarez, Stephanie Ward
Quorum Present:	Yes

Welcome/Introductions

The meeting began at 8:31 PM, with Kara Russell welcoming everyone present and calling for introductions.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

<u>Announcements</u>	Kara Russell announced that tonight’s meeting will be short therefore, reports will be held until December unless there is something time sensitive.
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Reports

Dr. Reid, Parent Support and Information Center	Upcoming Parent Support and Information Center activities reported by Dr. Reid: ➤ Life Care Planning Session will be held Tuesday, November 16, 2010, at Princess Anne High School from 6-8 PM.
Cheryl Ward Endeppence Center	Cheryl Ward handed out brochures. Upcoming Events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 20, 2010: PIER meeting on Functional Behavior Assessments and Behavioral Intervention Plans. Additional discussion will include legislation on Seclusion and Restraint. Guest Speaker will be Paul McMahon from the Virginia Office of Protection and Advocacy (VOPA) from 9:00 to Noon • November 13, 2020: Workshop on Medicaid Waiver Services. Designed for those already receiving Medicaid. From 9:00 to Noon. *Both meetings will be held at the Endeppence Center located at 6300 E. Virginia Beach Blvd in Norfolk. Register by calling 757-351-1586

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SEAC Ad Hoc Subcommittees:

<p>Disability Awareness Subcommittee Chair: Cherese Jenks</p>	<p>Cherese Jenks thanked her committee for all of their hard work. She reported there was \$1100 in cash prize donations received for the Disability History and Awareness Month art, essay contests and club contests. Which were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary Art Contest: How I Can Include My Classmates with Disabilities. • Middle School Essay Contest: Electronic Curb Cut Effect: How Inventions Designed for the Need of a Person with a Disability Have Benefitted Society. • High School Essay Contest: Why is it Important to Look at Employment, Inventions and Building Design When Talking about Accessibility for Everyone. • Club Contest: Disability Community Service Project <p>Books on the topic of disability were available for donation to all school libraries for 100% participation from all schools in Disability History and Awareness Month. Display space was secured at Pembroke Mall from October 18-31 to showcase student’s art work. A judging panel was secured for all contests which included The Mayor’s Committee for Person’s with Disabilities and respected members of the art and disability community. Unfortunately, donations were returned because of limited participation from schools and no submissions were received for any of the contests. Calls were made to cancel space allocation for Pembroke Mall, to break the unfortunate news and to thank all supporters, donors and prospective judges for their support.</p> <p>There were a few successes to be celebrated which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VoTech who displayed October is Disability History and Awareness Month on their marquee. • Princess Anne Middle School for creating their own disability awareness flier competition where students voted for a winner who was awarded a prize. • Kemps Landing Middle School for utilizing the daily announcements provided by this committee and for hosting an assembly with the East Coast Crippleers. • Old Donation Center for hosting an assembly with the East Coast Crippleers.
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Old Business

- A. Transportation: The subcommittee met. They will be sending out an email to SEAC members for review and discussion. Further discussion tabled until the meeting in December.
- B. Teacher Representatives: Tabled until the meeting in December.
- C. Bridges: Tabled until the meeting in December.

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New Business

- A. Disability Awareness Review: Discussion took place on how to gain better support and participation within the division after the report was given by Cherese Jenks.

One principal shared that schools schedule their planning calendars months in advance and information from SEAC for Disability History and Awareness Month came too late. He suggested the information be disseminated well in advance to allow schools appropriate planning time.

Discussion ensued regarding the date subcommittee was formed and completion date for Subcommittee's work. School systems were given encouragement, information and suggested activities by Virginia Department of Education regarding this topic in September 2009, which makes lack of participation by Virginia Beach schools hard to explain. Those schools who were unable to adjust their calendars in 2009 could have easily done so in time for 2010. Mention was made that a VDOE Superintendent's memo on the topic was sent out in June 2010. The information from VB SEAC was intended to help schools participate. They can take that information and act on it now for 2011 schedule. A suggestion was made that SEAC partner with the gifted advisory board. This point ended the discussion with consensus that further communication and support between the VB school division and schools is needed.

- B. IEP Educational Identification: A lot of effort went into removing diagnosis labels from IEP's. Recently, they have returned on the front page of the IEP. Dr. Daisy Wood is aware of this and believes it occurred because of new programming. Dr. Wood will look into the matter to work on removing this and report back. It was brought to the SEAC's attention that the computer was automatically checking the box which parents give permission on the IEP before the parents signed. There was objection to the computer granting permission and concern parents could unintentionally sign permission to something they didn't want to. Dr. Wood expressed this was a programming concern that she would also, address.

Review of Public Comment:

There was no current public comment.

Past Public Comment:

- A. Christine Chewing: Issue 1- The information on the Virginia Beach's educational programs and services for families with Autism are inadequate. Dr. Reid read the response which focused mainly on the Bridges support specialist and the process they go through to evaluate supports for the individual needs of each student in the least restrictive environment starting with supports in the general education setting. Dr. Wood explained how this service is often mistaken for a program when it is just a support service. She also, explained there is a misconception that there is a Bridges classroom when in fact, there is a cross-categorical classroom that students who are assessed by the Bridges Support Specialist may be recommended for as the least restrictive environment to best meet their needs. Other students are also, recommended for these classrooms from various sources. The Chewing's had additional questions regarding the Bridges program. Further Bridges discussion was tabled until the December meeting. The Chewing's did not feel this response answered all of their concerns. They would like the following questions answered:

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- Is there a place where we may access a list of programs, technologies, resources etc. along with the criteria for each offered by VBCPS?
 - If so, where may we locate this information?
 - In not, why is this information not made available to parents?
 - Does VBCPS feel the information they are currently making available to parents is adequate?
Why/Why Not?
 - In not, what does VBCPS plan to do to resolve this issue?
- B. Christine Chewing: Issue 2- The current procedure for assigning Special Education classrooms, prior to the start of a new school year, results in parental notification 2 weeks prior to the start of classes. This adds unneeded stress and is inadequate. Dr. Reid read the response which focused primarily on transitioning from different levels such as elementary to middle and middle to high. However, the Chewing's didn't feel this answered their question which was specific to class schedules being received 2 weeks prior to the start of the school year. SEAC agreed and has requested the Chewing's concern be revisited.

Reading and Approval of the Minutes:

Minutes were approved with corrections.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:15PM

Dianna Swenson made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Lisa Parker. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm

Next SEAC Meeting

December 12, 2010 ■ 9:00 a.m. at the Special Education Annex, Room #25, ■
1413 Laskin Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23451 ■ (757) 263-2400