

**Special Education Advisory Committee
Virginia Beach Public Schools**

Approved SEAC Minutes – December 14, 2009

Attendance

Present Members:	JoAnna Bryant, Ping Camano, Sandra Hermann, Sharon LaVier (Dept. of Human Services), Kara Russell, Jan Solock, Cheryl Ward, Jessica Rhea (Dept. of Parks and Rec.)
Absent Members:	Beth Callahan (TCC), Bonita Lyman (DRS), Lisa Parker, Marianne Stinson, Kathy Major (DRS), Doral Jackson (DRS)
Consultants Present:	Norman Brown, Dr. Judith Green, Robert Mitchell, Brenda Reid (OPEC), Daisy Wood (OPEC)
Consultants Absent:	Suzie Kumpf
Guests:	Wanda Byrd, Veronica Ellis, Deirdre Fisher, Cherese Jenks, Michael Katz, Sara MacDonald, Laura Morgan, Cindy Morgenstern, Debbie Patch, Jennifer Stratton, Dianna Swenson, Carolyn Weems (SB Member), Kenny Weinstein, Daisy Wood
Quorum Present:	Yes

Welcome/Introductions

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

Public Comment

There was one public comment—

Debbie Patch, a parent of a two year old student at Hermitage ES, expressed concerns about the transitioning process from kindergarten to first grade for a child with an IEP. Questions existed about need to be in a regular education classroom vs. a self-contained classroom.

Announcements

- A disability Awareness Poster Contest is being sponsored by the Arc of Northern Virginia. Deadline for the contest is December 23, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. Anyone interested was asked to contact Ping Camano.
- Two sessions of Parent Happy Hour will be held on December 16, 2009 one at 12:00 – 1:00PM and the other at 5:30 – 6:30PM. Topic for discussion “The Alternative Assessments for the Standards of Learning Assessment” VAAP, VGLA, and VSEP.
- Virginia Branch International Dyslexia Association will sponsor its 34th annual conference on Saturday, February 27, 2010 at the University of Richmond at 7:00AM – 6:00PM. The conference is titled Intervention Survival Guide: Practical Strategies for Professionals and Parents.
- The Childhood Apraxia Speech Network of Hampton’s Support Group Meeting will be held the second Saturday of each month, from 10:00AM to 12:00 noon. The address is 4560 South Boulevard, Suite 310, Virginia Beach, VA 23452.

Correspondence

A letter for SEAC membership was received from Sara MacDonald.

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Reports

Bob Mitchell/Daisy Woods OPEC	No activity reported
VBDHS: Va Beach Infant Program & MR Dept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Current Infant Program Enrollment: 295 ▪ Total Number of Discharges in November: 15 ▪ No. of children discharged in November who will attend VB preschools: 3 ▪ No. of those children who were three years old: 2 ▪ Total No. of children entering VB Schools since July 2009 for 09-2010: 40 ▪ Of the total number, those who were three years old: 28
Beth Callahan TCC	No report – absent.
Jessica Rhea Parks & Recreation	Jessica announced that there were 157 participants registered this past fall. There were some who registered for more than one program. Saturday, January 9, 2010 recreation guides will be available and can be obtained at each of the six recreation centers or online.
Parent Support and Information Center Dr. Brenda Reid	<p>Dr. Reid reported that for November and December there were 56 calls received, seven visits made and 17 emails received in the center.</p> <p>Parent Support and Information Center Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attended five IEP meetings with parents ▪ Attended the State Parent Resource Conference ▪ Held two, one-hour sessions of Parent Happy Hour <p>Mr. Mitchell expressed gratitude for Dr. Reid’s work and was very pleased with the results from the parents.</p>
Doral Jackson K. Major/Bonita Lyman Dept. of Rehab. Services (DRS)	<p>No report - absent.</p> <p>However Sandy reported all Order of Selection categories will be open starting December 15, 2009, due to stimulus funds.</p>
Cheryl Ward Endeppence Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ January 16, 2010 training will begin to focus on transition planning in an effort to improve post secondary outcomes for students. Training will be conducted by Debbie Grosser and Dale Pennell, secondary transition specialist. ▪ ADA Training course, “Traveling the Path to Freedom”, is going well. Classes began in October and meets on the first and third Thursday of each month. ▪ On Wednesday, December 9, U.S. Representative George Miller (D-CA) and Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) held a press conference to introduce new legislation to protect all children in schools from misuse of restraint and seclusion. This legislation is the first nation effort to prevent and reduce harmful restraint and seclusion in school.

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SEAC Standing Subcommittees

Membership Subcommittee Chair: Kara Russell	Two letters were received and favorable voted on in November by SEAC as potential new members to join the SEAC committee. Membership approval will be determined by School Board appointment.
Policy Review Subcommittee Chair: Sandy Hermann	Regulations on the Learning Plan have gone forward to the School Board. A meeting will be scheduled in the future to review the Learning Plan previously submitted and an announcement will be forwarded to all SEAC members.

SEAC Ad Hoc Subcommittees

SEAC Effectiveness Chair: Joanna Bryant	No activity was reported.
Minority Review Subcommittee Chair: Cheryl Ward	The committee is still ongoing with their plans to develop similar goals for students with disabilities similar to work done on behalf of African American students. Committee is planning to meet next month.
Annual Report Committee Chair: Sandy Hermann	No activity was reported, however, the Annual Report will be distributed to all SEAC members within the upcoming weeks for voting.
By-Law Review Chair: Cheryl Ward	Mr. Mitchell announced that the By-Laws are being reviewed, and the results should become available within the upcoming weeks.

SEAC Representatives

Va Beach Employment Transition Connection Representative(s)	No activity was reported.
SECEP Joint Board Meeting Representative(s)	No activity was reported.
School Board Representative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All ten alternative programs will be moved to the Renaissance Academy for SY 2010. ▪ The students at the academy are in difference color uniforms to allow staff to identify students within the different programs. This policy is enacted for safety <u>not</u> for special education identity. ▪ Caroline Weems reported that the Alert system is only for emergency and it is site based, however, principals can decide on other means. ▪ The potential changes in the grading scale will be published for parental input. ▪ Transitioning from ES, MS, and HS a report will be brought to the School Board. ▪ In the spring School Board members will be attending workshops, and several topics will be brought back to the Superintendent.
VBCPS Curriculum for Students with Moderate to Severe Disabilities Committee SEAC Rep: Joanna Bryant	No activity was reported.

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Old Business

- A. SEAC Draft By-Laws is currently with Kami Lannetti for review.
- B. The community resource fair was a success, partly because packets were mailed via US Mail for the first time, to all parents of students receiving special education. Each committee member also helped to advertise the fair, by distributing flyers in doctors' offices and around their workplace. There were 81 vendors in attendance. It was mentioned that for next year, post card notices might be a consideration to be sent out. In spite of the effort that was put into sending the packets out, two attendees at the meeting announced they did not receive a copy. Their names were submitted to investigate why they did not receive one.
- C. Special Education Administrative Guidelines Review - Sandy asked Daisy Wood to give a brief explanation regarding the process of changing the SPED Administrative Guidelines in Virginia Beach. Daisy explained that Virginia Beach City Public Schools SPED Administrative Guidelines have to be aligned with the state guidelines, whenever changes are made on the state level. Thus, VBCPS has to comply and make the changes as well within their policies. The Policy Review committee will meet with Daisy Wood in February to identify changes/concerns and then follow-up to the School Board with comment. Discussion at length was held concerning the revocation of consent. It was indicated that a parent has the power to put in writing whether to remove their child(ren) from any special education services within a given day.

New Business

- A. 2010 meeting topics – VGLA. Please forward additional topics of interest to Sandy.
 - Parents are not notified when a portfolio is completed on their child nor provided an opportunity to review it. More parent involvement is needed for SPED and understanding that a portfolio is being completed could increase parental involvement and allow a parent an opportunity to review their child's work. Sandy asked Mr. Mitchell if this is something that could be implemented, he agreed.
 - Cheresse Jenks voiced concern and hoped that the month of October, teachers could incorporate "disability rights" in the classrooms, since it is designated "disability awareness." Sandy asked Ms. Jenks to see if she could get additional information from Ron Lanier, DDHH, about the program for Hearing Impaired Disability curriculum developed in conjunction with DOE for 4th graders. She discussed obtaining information on how that curriculum was or is being implemented, what school divisions, and if broad disability curriculum could be developed and implemented throughout Virginia. Cheryl Ward requested that Mr. Mitchell inquire as to whether the lessons developed through the 992,000 SAIL history grant received by Virginia Beach will include disability history and if not, how we ensure that it will be included within the curriculum and lessons developed under the grant.
 - Kemps Landing Magnet School was nominated for outstanding PTA advocacy award.
 - Through the efforts of the PTA Scholarship Chair, Ping Camano, and Mr. Foster, the Kemps Landing Magnet School PTA was also nominated for an outstanding Advocacy award.
 - Someone suggested to begin planning now for next year's disability awareness month
 - Sandy announced there were two potential SEAC members that had already been voted on by SEAC and are being forwarded to the School Board for consideration of appointment, Dianna Swenson and Cheresse Jenks. Sandy read a letter to the committee received from Sara MacDonald, expressing her interest to become a SEAC member. Secret ballots were provided to all members for voting of submission of her letter to the School Board for consideration of potential membership appointment. It was unanimous determined to submit her letter forward to the School Board.
 - Sandy informed committee members that reappointment letters for numerous members are due in February if seeking reappointment.

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Review of Public Comment:

Mr. Mitchell will provide information about the Bridges Program eligibility, classes, transition process to SEAC and individually respond to the public commenter.

Reading and Approval of the Minutes:

❖ *October's minutes was approved with no correction.*

Meeting Adjourned

Next SEAC Meeting

January 11, 2010 ■ 9:00 a.m. at Special Education Annex, Room #25, ■ 1413 Laskin Road ■ Virginia Beach,
VA 23451 ■ (757) 263-2400