

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: 5/19/2021

7:00-8:00 pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Meeting Host: Susan Nielson, School Board Clerk

Draft Minutes

	Name	Role	Present	Not Present
SEAC Members				
	Cindy Hart	Chair	X	
	Ashley Simpson Baird	Member	X	
	Michael Behrmann	Vice-chair	X	
	Coral Childs	Co-secretary		X
	Abena Durity	Co-secretary		X
	Janet Eissenstat	Member	X	
	Laura Fontaine	Staff Member	X	
	Lauren Golubski	Member	X	
	Deborah Perry	Member	X	
	Sabrina Reilly	Member	X	
	Alexis Stackhouse	Member		X
	Sandra Strachan-Vieira	Member		X-excused
	J-Lynn Van Pelt	Member	X	
	Jeffrey Zack	Member	X	
Consultants				
	Meagan Alderton	School Board Liaison	X	
	Open	Principal Liaison		
	Theresa Werner	Staff Liaison	X	
Other	Courtney Davis	PRC Liaison	X	
	Janet Reese	PRC Liaison	X	
	Terry Mazingo	Chief of Teaching, Learning, Leadership		X

Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm.

Attendance was taken.

Chair Cindy Hart reviewed Meeting Norms.

No Public Comment

Minutes from March 17, 2021 and April 21, 2021 SEAC meetings were not available for review.

Old Business and Action Items

- Literacy Subcommittee Report

The Literacy subcommittee Chair Lauren Golubski sent out to SEAC the subcommittee's memo providing input on the district's K-2 Literacy Initiative. Members may send comments to subcommittee Chair Lauren Golubski.

Action item: Meet with K-2 Literacy Team to share memo. (Lauren Golubski)

- Nominations Subcommittee Report

To date there is only one candidate on the slate: Lauren Golubski has submitted her name as nominee for Chair. Elections will be held at the June SEAC meeting.

- Anne Lipnick Awards update

The nominations have been reviewed and winners selected. It was agreed by the review team to add a new category for Related Service Provider. Winners will be announced at the June 3, 2021, School Board meeting.

Action Item: Compose and send out a letter of gratitude to all SPED staff in ACPS. (Cindy Hart to write; Terry Werner to distribute)

- Communications

Terry Werner completed and sent out for review a draft of the SPED quarterly newsletter. It has been a big effort to get updated contacts for all families of students receiving special education services.

Action Item: Send out newsletter to SPED families. (Terry Werner)

New Business and Reports

- By-laws Article IV-Membership B.12

Cindy Hart made a motion to approve an amendment to this article which was seconded by ----. Committee discussion focused on best wording to describe the responsibility of SEAC members to notify the committee of change in employment status but to not automatically prevent ACPS employees from being SEAC members. The Chair decided to rewrite the amendment for the June SEAC meeting. A motion to remove the motion to vote was made by Cindy Hart and seconded by Lauren Golubski.

Action Item: Re-write amendment to Article IV.B.12. (Cindy Hart)

- SEAC and SPED Community Questions and Concerns
Members were invited to make suggestions about areas of focus for next year. The only comment made was that continued outreach to families of SWD is essential.

- Reports

Executive Director of Specialized Instruction

- Terry Werner commented on the summer programs being offered, with ESY being 4 weeks in person at Jefferson Houston School.
- Ms. Werner expressed excitement about the new, dynamic Transition Coordinator recently hired.
- Ms. Werner shared the concern that Virtual VA, which will provide instruction for ACPS virtual students in the fall, does not supply any SPED or TAG programming.
- In response to a member question, Ms. Werner noted that the process for determining who is eligible for COVID-19 Recovery Services is described in her SPED newsletter.

School Board Liaison

- Meaghan Alderton commended PRC employees Courtney Davis and Janet Reese and those of FACE for help with contacting parents of SWD and English Language Learners about school choice for the fall. Ms. Alderton noted that all safety measures will be in place in fall. All students are being encouraged to return to school in person, and Ms. Alderton asked the SEAC to also encourage families to choose in-person instruction.

- The ACPS budget is in the final approval process.
- An ad-hoc subcommittee has been formed to help advisory groups better communicate with the School Board.
- Ms. Alderton commented on the High School project, and discussion highlighted that the focus will be on project-based learning and connecting learning to career development. A suggestion was made for SEAC to review the High School Project and to consider secondary transitions as they relate to the academic design. Terry Werner suggested inviting to SEAC Susanne Futrell, Secondary Math Coordinator, since math instruction will change significantly.

Parent Resource Center

- The PRC had no information to share aside from the PRC Contact Data and April Report to SEAC.

SEAC Chair

- Cindy Hart proposed that the format used this evening—a one-hour business meeting followed by a subcommittee meeting—serve as a model for next year and asked for feedback from members. The SEAC is advised by VDOE to schedule time for subcommittee meetings into its monthly calendar.

Announcements

The communications subcommittee meeting is to occur immediately after this meeting on the same zoom link.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.