

Minutes of Meeting of Suffolk Special Education Advisory Committee

September 15, 2021

Attendees:

Voting: Holly Boyce, Saul Godinez, Regina Hall, Deborah Kliche, Katie Morse, Kirstyn Oneill, Leslie Schiefer, Amy Sroka

Consultant: Vivian Evett, James Gunther, Jessica Joyner, Kelly MacPherson, Julie Masters, Marisol Moore, Theresa Pope, Stephanie Whitley

Guest: Sarah Bailey, Pamela Charles, Jennifer McCullough, Latricia Russell-Wilkerson

Absent: Angela Bickerson, Shawynee Love

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Godinez welcomed everyone. Everyone in attendance introduced him or herself to the group. A quorum was achieved for this meeting.

II. Announcements and Correspondence

- A. The Endependence Center will be holding youth independent living skills classes in October. This will be held on October 2, 2021.
- B. The Endependence Center is holding a regional SEAC meeting on Saturday, October 23rd from 10 am to 12 pm.
- C. PEATC is opening a brand new office behind the fire department on Route 17 in North Suffolk. If there are any trainings that PEATC offers that we would like to have presented, we should let Stephanie know.
- D. We were unable to get the special education SOL data presented for this evening, but we are hoping to have this presented at our November meeting. The SOL data is available at <https://schoolquality.virginia.gov/divisions/suffolk-city-public-schools#desktopTabs-2>.

III. Public Comment

No public comment was made to the SEAC committee at this meeting.

IV. Old Business

A. Special Education Reports

1. Director's Report

- a) The organizational chart for the special education department has been updated. A copy of the new organizational chart was presented to those present at the meeting this evening. It is available on the department website at:
<https://sites.google.com/spsk12.net/org/departments/special-education?authuser=0>
- b) Data transition to Virginia IEP is going well. Remaining glitches with missing entries and missing data are being sorted out now.
- c) The Indicator 8 survey went out this past week. This is a VDOE survey that will help identify training needs related to the special education processes. The VDOE will use the results of the survey “to improve parental involvement in the special education process and improve outcomes for all students within the Commonwealth”. This survey will be open until December 17, 2021.
- d) The PSAT program for students in special education who come back for an additional year of school will include an actual IEP and not just a PSAT plan.

2. PRC Report

- a) A PRC presentation was given during preservice presentations. This included information on how to make IEP meetings more parent friendly, promoting disability acceptance at schools, and promoting people-first language.
- b) The special education department has hosted four parent workshops in collaboration with PEATC. There were a total of 17 attendees for these workshops, including 7 parents, guardians and students with disabilities, 8 educators, 1 specialist, and 1 “other”. Powerbooks were offered to all attendees. Four attendees requested them.
- c) The next parent workshop event is currently being planned for early October – How to talk so schools will listen and listen so schools will talk.
- d) The Disability Awareness Resource Fair is still in the planning stages. We are aiming for late October, early November.

- e) The National Night Out event held in August included a PRC resource table. Parents were able to stop by and receive PRC and SEAC brochures and information.
- f) The September PRC Report should be coming out next week. Since the report in July, the PRC has had 10 requests for information from parents and guardians and one from school staff. Vivian has had 9 cell phone consultations, 6 email consultations and one in-person consultation and provided various brochures and information. The top three concerns for contact continue to be eligibility, special education process, and resources.

B. Approval of July minutes (action required)

- 1. The July 2021 minutes were approved after changing “ND” to the word “empty” under Special Education Updates, section A, number 2.

V. New Business

A. SEAC goals for 2021-2022

The draft goals for 2021-2022 were discussed extensively during this meeting. Additionally, an emergency virtual session was called for September 22, 2021 to polish them.

B. SEAC subcommittees for 2021-2022

The committee ran out of time to discuss this item at this meeting. It will be moved to the agenda for the next meeting.

C. Review of Spring 2021 SOL Data

The SOL data department was unable to have someone attend the meeting tonight on short notice. SEAC has requested to have someone attend the November meeting to discuss the SOL data, rather than waiting until January.

VI. Public Comment Review

There was no public comment made this evening.

VII. Open Discussion

The SEAC committee did not have open discussion tonight, in favor of working on the goals for the year.

VIII. Adjournment

The next SEAC meeting will be held at 6:30 on Wednesday, November 17, 2021.