

Minutes of Meeting of Suffolk Special Education Advisory Committee – May 19, 2021

Attendees:

Voting: Saul Godinez, Katie Morse, Kirstyn O'Neill, Pamela Charles

Consultant: Holly Boyce, Jamillah Silver, Jessica Joyner, Kelly MacPherson, Marisol Moore, Stephanie Whitley, Vivian Evett, Julie Masters

Guest: Leslie Schiefer, Sarah Bailey, Vanessa Tabacheck

Absent: Amber Feliciano, Danielle Sharborough, Callie Koelling, Melissa Gomes, Olivia Adamson-Delk, Carolyn B. Johnson, Shawynee Love, Stephanie Garrett

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mrs. Charles welcomed everyone. Pertinent guests and consultants for this evening were introduced. A quorum was not achieved, so voting could not take place this meeting.

II. Special Education Updates

- A. Summer program information is on the SPS website. There are additional summer programs this year so that more students can access a program that will benefit them. Students who have accommodations during the year will have them during the summer sessions.
- B. The secondary team applied for and was awarded a transition grant. It is the Jobs for Virginian Graduates grant, which will provide opportunities for students with high-incidence disabilities with workplace readiness skills. This grant will help restructure an existing class.
- C. Students who will turn 22 prior to September of this year will have the option to attend school for one more year this year. This is a temporary initiative.
- D. There is not a lot of new information about the new VAP and the VSOLs yet. SPS did nominate one program teacher to participate in the process of reviewing which former ASOLS should be kept, modified, etc., and she was accepted into the group, so SPS is excited to have a voice at the table for this process.
- E. The Special Education department has a new position added to the prospective budget - an Adaptive PE Specialist.
- F. There is a critical shortage of Special Education teachers for next year. There are 13 openings currently, and more may retire. There are several new specialist positions that the department would like to implement so that the teachers have better support, but filling these positions has to come first.

III. Public Comment

There was no public comment made this evening.

IV. Announcements/Correspondence

- A. The Parent Resource Center is shaping up nicely and it is ready to receive visitors.
- B. The Endependence Center is open for scheduled appointments now. The calendar of events is available on their website at www.endependence.org, or people may contact Sarah Bailey for more information.
- C. CHKD is in the process of setting up COVID-19 vaccine clinics for their patients. Parents should contact their CHKD provider for more information. This setting may be more comfortable and more medically appropriate for individuals with special needs.
- D. Special Olympics Area 29 is looking for athletes who are interested in playing golf. This will start at Sleepy Hole in July.

V. Old Business

- A. Buddy System for 2021-2022 School Year

A Buddy System is being developed for the coming school year. The specifics are still being worked out, but this system should be a way to help new students get settled in more easily.

- B. Review of meeting minutes from March 2021

There were no changes to the March 2021 minutes by members who were present this evening, but they could not be approved due to a lack of quorum.

VI. New Business

- A. SEAC Committee membership for 2021-2022

The current SEAC committee membership process and term limits were discussed.

VII. Public Comment Review

There was no public comment made this evening.

VIII. Adjournment

The next SEAC meeting will be held at 6:30 on Wednesday, September 16, 2021.