

# **Minutes of Meeting of Suffolk Special Education Advisory Committee**

**January 19, 2021**

## **Attendees:**

Voting: Holly Boyce, Saul Godinez, Regina Hall, Deborah Kliche, Katie Morse, Kirstyn Oneill

Consultant: Vivian Evett, Jessica Joyner, Kelly MacPherson, Julie Masters, Jamillah Silver, Stephanie Whitley

Guest: Patrice Gantt, Jennifer McCullough, Kelly Szymborski

Absent: Angela Bickerson, Regina Hall, Shawynee Love, Leslie Schiefer

## **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 Special Olympics is looking for swimmers for the swim team. This team practices on Sundays from 4-6 pm.

## **III. Public Comment**

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

## **IV. Special Education Reports**

### **A. Director's Report**

1. The community engagement department has been providing a lot more information about special education and SEAC on flyers lately and making this information much more accessible to the public.
2. The IT department has become very concerned about 'Zoom bombing;' and other techniques to disrupt Zoom, Google Meet, and other virtual meetings. We will not be able to provide links that allow individuals to join these meetings directly on webpages, articles, or on literature any longer. Individuals will need to register for the events prior to the event and will then receive the information on how to join the event via email.
3. The Special Education department is serving 25 more students this year than last year. 1803 students are receiving services this year.

4. Stephanie Whitley, Kelly MacPherson and Jessica Joyner attended the Virginia ASPD conference in December. They presented on ‘How to Reach This Child to Teach This Child’.
5. PEATC held an open house at the new office in Harbour View. They will be presenting various trainings for our parents in the coming months.
6. EdPlan Connect has been added to Virginia IEP to allow parents to access their children’s’ IEPs, progress reports, etc.
7. Additional training for teaching staff on how to support children with special needs is planned to begin in February.
8. The Special Education department applied for a transition grant for technical support, which was approved. This will give us three years of technical support to put together a transition program for students.

**B. PRC Report**

1. The PRC is planning monthly parent workshops and will advise the community and SEAC of the particulars when they are finalized.
2. The Disability Awareness Fair is tentatively scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 5:30 at Nansemond River High School. A virtual option will be available after the in-person portion to maximize attendance. The PRC is applying for a \$4000 VDO grant to use in support of the Disability Awareness Fair.
3. The PRC is also working with other Region II PRCs from Chesapeake, Virginia Beach and Newport News Public Schools to apply for an \$8000 grant in support of a Social Emotional Learning virtual workshop. This will include speakers and come with tangible supports such as fidget and decompression toys, conversation dice, mindfulness books, etc. We are hoping to have this event in March.

**V. Old Business**

**A. SEAC subcommittees for 2021-2022**

Subcommittee members and chairs were sorted out for all subcommittees.

**B. Approval of November minutes (action required)**

1. The November 2021 minutes were approved as written.
2. Appointment of SEAC Secretary
  - a) There are still no volunteers to fill the secretary position.

**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 out the subcommittees.

**VIII. Adjournment**

The next SEAC meeting will be held at 6:30 on Wednesday, March 16, 2022.