

Wednesday, July 17, 2024

Special Education Advisory Committee Mtg.

Attendees: Kirstyn O'Neill (Nansemond Borough and Chair) Christy Cole (Holy Neck Borough, Secretary), James Shores, Stephanie Whitley (Chuckatuck Borough and Vice Chair), Dr. DawnMarie Brittingham, Jon Rankin, Charlotte Brooks-Dale, Megan Downes, Marie Larsen, Blythe Johnson-Jones, Dr. Casaundra McNair, Kim Warholak

Online Attendees: Tiffany, Karen Jenkins, Quay Cummings, Kelsey Robinson, Chelsie, Amber, Nia

Notes

- I. Welcome and Introductions (6:36PM Start)
 - A. Welcome by Kirstyn, SEAC Chair
 - B. Ice Breaker and introductions of attendees
- II. Announcements and Correspondence
 - A. National Night Out
 1. Younger kid activities at Creekside and at Kings Fork
 - B. New school year begins Aug. 26
- III. Public Comment
 - A. Charlotte: Thankful one kid graduated from needing services. Hopeful the resources become more knowledgeable toward/for the public. Asks that more advertising and information be shared for resources available.
 - B. Jon Rankin: Borough parent- Length and timeline of process for students to receive services seems to be long; is there a way to advocate to speed the process up?
 - C. Stephanie: Help support new SPED team.
 1. Implying SPED team to locate a Parent Resource Liaison (PRC) as it is a needed and important resource.

- a) By state SEAC Bylaws, SEAC should review Policy and Procedure changes either made by the State or by SPS before being going before the SPS board. Concerns for students who have violated the behavior policy, which is different for students with disabilities. SEAC committee needs time to review before going toward the SPS board.
- D. Marie: Labeling an IEP is different than what is listed.
- E. Dr. McNair: A PD initiative is to actively develop PD for teacher for the school year.
- F. Kirstyn: Attendance for PD isn't mandatory. Is there a way improve teachers attendance to the PD?
- G. Stephanie: Attendance isn't required and so need to talk to upper management to get that going. Is there any state implications for not having required PD for teachers in SPED
- H. Ms. Jones: Require PD. SPED road map for leads and directors need to accomplish support for PD
- I. Nia: Only one licensed SPED teacher in school at certain times during this past school year. Many students needs weren't being met.
 - 1. Is there a plan in place for IEP process, when licensed SPED teachers are limited? What does the process look like for teachers to track goals in the classroom?
- J. Ms. Robertson: Who is going to help a new SPED teacher with IEP meetings? Are they going to have a mentor?
 - 1. SPED specialist to assist new parents.
 - 2. Building admin chooses school SPED specialist.
 - 3. Promises were made and being kept
- K. Charlotte: SPS does not dictate what students get, parents do. Parents do not have to sign the IEP. Parents need to advocate and search for resources.
- L. Ms. Robertson: No data collection to see where her her child is. This piece needs to be in place so that the school needs to know how to properly service her child. Parents need to advocate
- M. Marie: Grandson had best resource inclusion teacher. Shout out Ms. Thacker at Oakland!

- N. Megan: iReady is not appropriate for hearing impaired and other SPED students. There isn't any data to show her students progress and the classroom teacher didn't advocate for her student. Testing for iReady showed massive regression and it took 3rd grade to finally get a Kindergarten reading level.

IV. Special Education Reports

A. Directors Report

1. Introduction of New Department heads

- a) Dr. McNair introduced herself and her team; Ms. Jones, and Ms. Warholak

2. Upcoming Events

- a) 37 elementary and 33 high school students in Extended School Year
- b) 3rd year of being apart of VCU partnership with Autism Excellence

V. Old Business

1. Getting the word out about SEAC/SPS Current Policy

- a) Getting the word out for SEAC meetings
- b) Get info on SEAC in IEP meetings
 - (1) Have a folder of info at eligibility meetings that include info on SEAC and PRC
- c) Parent liaison has to give permission to put flyers out in community
- d) Flyers in schools- building supervisor didn't want to put them up
- e) Flyers to teacher- building supervisor didn't want to send out.
- f) Give families a safe place for SPED
- g) Get SEAC represented at meetings and events
- h) Let others share the info about SEAC
 - (1) SEAC is a tool to help the school and parents
 - (2) Finding a school balance
 - (3) SEAC is a committee to provide info of students and concert.
 - (4) SEAC shares concerns in the comments

VI. New Business

A. Approval of May minutes

1. Stephanie motioned, Kirstyn approved

B. What is SEAC?

1. Read the purpose of SEAC from the State SEAC Bylaws
2. James: Dr. Gordon is going through committee revisions
3. Stephanie: SEAC is mandated by the state whereas the other committees appointed by the SPS board are not. SEAC needs guidance in proceeding to stay in policy compliance.
4. Kirstyn: Not Growing like we should because for approximately 3,000 SPED students SEAC is only allowed to have 7 Committee members, and not all Boroughs participate, even if appointed by their SPS Board Member.

C. Addressing current membership policy

1. SPS SEAC Bylaws: Only Borough representatives can serve on SEAC and are appointed by the SPS Board for a 1 year term.
2. State SEAC Bylaws: State that representatives appointed to all SEAC Committees serve 2 year terms and the number of representatives on SEAC committees is not limited.

VII. Public Comment Review

- A. Next meeting will be the 3rd Wednesday in September. SEAC meets every other month, the 3rd Wednesday of that month.
- B. Ask SPED team to get Supervisor to send updated by-laws.
- C. Is the Corrective Audit available
 1. SPED team responded that they were unsure and will get back to SEAC

VIII. Open Discussion

- A. Charlotte: When attending the meeting virtually, it is difficult to hear. This could cause attendance to be limited.

IX. Adjournment (8:33PM)