

# **Minutes of Suffolk Special Education Advisory Committee – September 18, 2019**

## **Attendees:**

Voting: Leslie Schiefer, Vivian Evett, Courtney Richardson, Regina Hall, Holly Boyce, Angela Miller, Tiarra Logen-Biggs, Saul Godinez (via Skype)

Consultants: Nitika Murphy, David Mitnick, Stephanie Whitley (via phone)

Guest: Jasmine Holloman, Norma Rollins, Pamela Charles, Sherri Story, Ann Dunn, Cassandra Waters, Brianna McDonald

Absent: Anitra Simmons, Jeff Davis, Thea Davis

**I. Welcome and Introductions** - Ms. Schiefer welcomed everyone and people introduced themselves.

## **II. Announcements and Correspondence**

Ms. Dunn mentioned that her daughter was able to attend the IM DETERMINED/ JAM U summit in June. Applications must be submitted by January of the attending year. It is advertised through the VCU and VDOE partnership.

Ms. Dunn mentioned the Versabilities Center for Transitions this past June.

Ms. Dunn mentioned Our Brother's Keeper a program happening in Hampton Roads

Ms. Richardson informed the committee of events happening in Hampton Roads in the upcoming month.

**III. Public Comment** – None. A guest asked what a public comment was and Ms. Schiefer explained to the guest what a public comment was as well as the rules for making public comment at a SEAC meeting.

## **IV. Guest Speaker – Jasmine Holloman, Therapeutic Recreation Specialist for Suffolk Parks and Recreation.**

Ms. Holloman introduced herself. She is a new graduate. She interned with VA Beach Parks and Recreation. Ms. Holloman mentioned the main Parks and Recreation Center is located at E. Washington St. in Downtown Suffolk. Most of their functions are held at Planters Club or Sleepy Hole Park.

The upcoming event is the Taste Buds- A 4-day cooking program ages 6-21 happening on 10/21-10/24 from 5:30-7:30pm at the Planters Club.

Ms. Holloman mentioned upcoming events within the next six months: Fitness classes on Mondays in January. Karaoke in February, Thera paws, an animal program, happening in March.

Mr. Godinez provided Coach Robert Gardner as a contact for the Challenger club. Mr. Godinez provided information for the Bennet's Creek Little League Challenger Division. Any school age child with a disability can participate.

Ms. Schiefer mentioned working the Bethanne Bradshaw who sends out all of the Peach Jar notices.

Ms. Holloman can also provide any upcoming events for inclusion the Suffolk SEAC page.

Ms. Holloman mentioned a street store for the homeless allowing participants to drop off and pick up needed items.

Ms. Holloman mentioned starting a Parent Night out. She asked the committee if they thought parents would be more interested in coming in to do an activity, or if parents would prefer to drop their child off which would allow the parents time to do something on their own for example a date night.

Suffolk Parks and Recreation is also working on getting qualified nurses to participate to help more special needs children.

Ms. McDonald mentioned the buddy program. A program where typically developing students, spend time in with Special Needs students.

## **V. Old Business**

A. Approval of March minutes - Minutes were approved after the following amendment. C/S changed to SEE/US (Student Employment Experience/Under Supervision

B. Special Education Reports

### **1. Special Education Director's Report**

Ms. Whitley mentioned the Disability Awareness Fair will be held in November and Julie Masters is working on the fair agenda.

Ms. Schiefer wanted to know the proper protocol for hiring a Special Education teacher. Is the principal or the Special Education Department responsible for hiring?

Ms. Whitley stated teacher training continued education for Special Education. A few classes are required for the state to obtain a license and continue to take classes.

Ms. Schiefer wanted to know what training is required for a teacher's aid to be promoted to the teaching position and how long a provisional license is in force. She also wanted to know the requirements needed for a para-professional?

### **2. Parent Resource Center Report**

Ms. Murphy described what PRC is and what it does.

PRC has moved from a mobile unit at Elephant's Fork Elementary to Booker T. Washington Elementary because the space wasn't adequate or easily accessible. It is now more inviting.

Ms. Murphy stated the PRC had 1 visit in the last month from a teacher looking to help her student.

Sign Language classes will begin in October at Northern Shores Elementary.

Connect for Success workshops in be held in October.

PRC hours are 9-4:30pm Monday-Friday.

### **3. Extended School Year**

ESY ran from June 24- July 25. They provided services to students in two Early Childhood Special Education classes, Five Elementary classes with a total of 61 students. Three middle school classes and three high school classes with a combined total of 40 students. There were a total of 101 students attending ESY. Students who qualified for ESY had speech, OT, PT, and an interpreter. Ms. Logen-Biggs mentioned that her son was not given his services for ESY. Ms. Whitley stated that the ESY goals are developed by the IEP team. ESY is designed for students based on data who would be struggling and supports regression over breaks.

Ms. Logen-Biggs wanted to know if things are written in a child's IEP, why aren't they getting what they need during ESY.

Ms. Rollins wanted to know what measures and types of security are put in place during ESY.

### **4. Transition**

The transition report will presented at the January SEAC Meeting.

## **VI. Subcommittee Reports – No subcommittee reports**

## **VII. New Business**

### **A. Goals and Planning - New Sub-committee goals.**

#### **1. See/Us**

Review the development and management of the SEE/US program.

#### **2. Transportation**

Ensure adequate resources are available for students who qualify for transportation.

Ensure there are enough bus aides and drivers. It was mentioned that there are positions available, but not people applying for the position.

#### **3. Buddy/Mentor Program**

Explore the possibilities of the Buddy Program in special education in all schools.

#### **4. U.S.E. Class**

Plan, develop and implement U.S.E. (Understanding Special Education) courses for parents, school administrators and teachers.

#### **5. Communication**

Determine methods to improve communications between parents of students who receive Special Education services and schools.

#### **6. SEAC**

Continue efforts to improve the presence of SEAC information within schools.

## **VIII. Public Comment Review – None.**

**IX. Open Discussion** –Ms. Logen-Biggs spoke with Lisa Howard, the EFMP coordinator for TRICARE. Ms. Howard would love to come and speak with SEAC and provide information to the SEAC Committee about the Exceptional Family Member Program.

Mr. Godinez is requesting reps and links for GO to Meeting or a virtual set up for guest and members who cannot be at SEAC Meeting in person.

Mr. Godinez wants the PRC / Ms. Murphy to provide more information about events and services that are happening in the area.

Members of the committee re-visited the July minutes and corrected C/S to SEE/US program. Another vote was held and the minutes were approved with the correction as noted.

**X. Adjournment** - The next meeting will be November 20, 2019.