

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

## Special Education Advisory Committee Mtg.

Attendees: Kim Warholak, Nanette Gaines, Blythe Johnson Jones, Megan Downes, Sean McGee, Darlene Symborshi, Caitlyn Symborshi, Stephanie Whitley, Marie Larson, Kristal Taylor, Shawn Dickerson, Kelly MacPherson, Jamillah, Chaquira Kindred, Christy Cole

Online Attendees: Charlotte Brooks- Dale, Matthew Booth, Terrence Jones, Karen Jenkins, Melissa Brady, Tracia Holloman

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### Notes

- I. Welcome and Introductions (6:37PM Start)
  - A. Welcome by Kirstyn O'Neill, SEAC Chair
  - B. Karen Jenkins, SPS Board Chair gives charge to SEAC
- II. Announcements and Correspondence
  - A. N/A
- III. Public Comment
  1. Mrs. Whitley-
    - a) Citizen Advisory Committee encourages more interaction from parents in the committee
    - b) Audit asks about SEAC
      - (1) Several years ago corrective action was that a folder was to be given out to families.
      - (2) Flyers given as well as made available to parents in regard to SEAC
  2. Mrs. Oneill- Not sure where info about a SEAC flyer being stapled to papers came from. Request Dr. Gordon have a conversation to help with the disconnect of info.
  3. Mrs. Whitley- SEAC is the only mandated citizen advisory committee. We aren't looking to grow other committees.

4. Ms. Holloman- Stated that in the recent November School Board meeting it was stated that SEAC meetings are regularly advertised on Peach Jar, however, she can't locate the announcement.

- a) Make a point/suggestion to advertise on social media where parents are more apt to look.

#### IV. Special Education Reports

##### A. SOL Data Presentation- by Ms. Taylor and Mr. Dickerson

###### 1. SOL and VAAP Results

- a) On time graduation diploma and drop-out
- b) Cohort Graduation is 9th-12th grade
- c) Cohort drop-out rate
  - (1) Drop out for Suffolk is 12% which equates to 21 students.
  - (2) Mrs. Oneill- Why the significant change in drop-out?
  - (3) Mr. Dickerson- Smaller amount of students causes the percentage to change drastically.

###### 2. Mrs. Oneill- How are extended 6 year Cohort measured?

###### 3. Mr. Dickerson- Tracked through the state. Attempt to get them an Applied Diploma

##### B. Director's Report/ Special Events- Dr. McNair

1. Big Feet Meet at Lakeland
2. Little Feet Meet is coming
3. Military Resource Fair at KFMS- Nov. 7, gave out over 30 bags
4. In the middle of getting the count entered for students with disabilities- due Dec. 1. This information goes to the VDOE and DOE
5. In January starting with a virtual and in person PRC, even though a person has not been hired yet.
6. Professional Development continues with adequate training

7. Targeting good practices for teachers and ways to train them to assist families and give them resources so that they understand where they are and their growth assessments.
8. Under VAAP criteria only 1% is required to take assessment, but we are at 3% (we need to go down to 2%). VAAP replaces SOL for severe disabilities.
9. Additional info at VDOE website:
  - a) Teaching and Learning -> Parent and Caregiver Resources
  - b) Programs and Services -> Special Education for Families
10. All coordinators and specialist have been trained and updated.
11. Comments:
  - a) Ms. Johnson-Jones spoke on the changes in VAAP to better meet the needs of students
  - b) Mrs. Whitley spoke on VAAP, how it's measured on IQ. It's not good to go back and forth between SOL and VAAP.
  - c) Ms. Kindred- Didn't choose a VAAP vs. SOL for her child in third grade because he wasn't ready.
  - d) Mrs. Oneill asked if the SPED team would be gentle because for parents, they are mourning a process. It's a critical decision point for family resources

## V. Old Business

### A. Subcommittees/ Goals Establishment

1. Sub-Committees:
  - a) Policy Sub Committee- Mrs. Whitley, Chair/Lead
  - b) Community Engagement Sub Committee- Mr. Jones, Chair/Lead
2. Goals:
  - a) SEAC will continue to advance disability awareness and acceptance within SPS community
  - b) SEAC will continue to develop methods to improve communication with all SPS Special Education stakeholders

- c) Review current policy regarding access to IEPs and 504s for instructional staff members, including substitutes.
- d) Develop improved systems for students and their families transitioning from one building and education level to the next.
- e) Work with SPS staff to help review and suggest programs throughout SPS, including, but not limited to: sensory areas, classrooms location, restraint training, and transition/work skills opportunities.
- f) Support parent training by making it more available and equitable to parents among all grade levels and all parts of the district.
- g) SEAC will continue to grow SEAC and increase parental engagement.

\* Table more goals until Dec. VDOE Parent Summary Returns

#### B. SOL Data

#### C. Ordinance 24-25-26 Section 9-26.1 Statement of Policy. Restraint and Seclusion- 2nd

##### 1. Policy Review met in Nov.

- a) Possible error in how an ordinance reads. Could be a possible copy/paste mix up.

##### 2. Send Policy Review to Dr. McNair

### VI. New Business

#### A. Approval of September minutes

- 1. Mrs. Whitely- motioned to approve
- 2. Ms. Downs- 2nd motion

#### B. Policy Review Committee Findings

- 1. Ms. Downs- When is growth assessment data released? Ms. Downs received her last assessment at the end of the year/summer, however, by that time she couldn't do anything about it.

### VII. Public Comment Review

### VIII. Open Discussion

### IX. Adjournment (8:07PM)