St. Charles Parish Public Schools

Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

9:00am - 10:30am

Minutes

Members present at the March 7, 2023 meeting of the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) were: Mendy Van Hoven, Cierra Puryear, Lolita Grant, Sally Gaglione, Victoria Bryant and Amber Pinero. Absent members included Lonna Bagwell, Stephen Zarifau, Jessica Rownd, and Wyatt Rownd.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Van Hoven. The meeting norms, outcomes, and agenda were agreed upon by members.

* Ms. Victoria Bryant, Executive Director of The Arc of St. Charles gave a 45 minute presentation on the available resources and services The Arc provides.
* A representative from The Arc will attend transition meetings for students exiting high school.
* Upstart Summer Camp provided to children with disability from the ages of 15-17.
* The Arc provides vocational, day habilitation, and residential services.
* Participants at The Arc are provided with opportunities to see and get hands on real world job experiences with job coaching/shadowing as needed.
* Participants are able to attend events such as Jazz Fest, Pelicans games, etc.
* Ms. Cierra Puryear gave an update on the second parent meeting of the 2022-2023 school year.
* Parent meeting was held February 28, 2023 at 10-11:30am at the PLC.
* Ms. Maria Alvarez, the Public Affairs Specialist for Social Security gave a 45 minute presentation on the basic criteria of how to qualify, the application process, and the information pertinent to student transition to adulthood (what happens to benefits at the age of 18 and how working may/may not affect benefits).
* Parents were given the opportunity to ask questions.
* 11 attended in-person, 7 virtual
* The flyer was advertised on the district’s social media (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter). The flyer was also sent to administration to send to parents through School Status.
* Ms. Cierra Puryear informed parents of the upcoming 12-part webinar series for Autism Acceptance month presented by the Michael R. Boh Center for Child Development beginning March 9, 2023.
* Ms. Cierra Puryear let members know that this is the ending of their two-year term.
* Members can reapply and/or be appointed to an additional term at the discretion of the Superintendent.
* Applications will be posted to the district’s website and sent to administration by March 17, 2023.
* The deadline to submit applications will be April 21, 2023. No late applications will be accepted.
* Mrs. Van Hoven gave an update on transition support.
* The Special Education Department has partnered with LASARD to create guidance for schools to effectively prepare students with disabilities for year to year and school to school transitions.
* The floor was opened to council members for questions, concerns, and next steps for the 2023-2024 school year.
* Have Bayou Land Families Helping Families attend at least one SEAC meeting each year to present on the services they provide and how they can assist families.
* Suggestion: Keep the same time and day of the week for future meetings (Tuesday’s at 9:00am – 10:30am)

Lastly, a group meeting evaluation was conducted by Ms. Cierra Puryear in regards to results and processes.