

SEAC October VIRTUAL MEETING

10/13/2020

Start time 7:00pm

Attendees:

Cate Hudtloff
Nicole Group
Emily Boshkoff
Katy Compel
Stephanie Hicks
Betsey Soulsby
Michael Armstrong
Kevin Kirst
Heather Grunden
John Wilson
Amanda Wagner
Jen Beard
Jennifer Mackrous
Kim Dean
Sara Henry
Tanya Evans-

Speaker: Kevin Kirst, executive director of special education

I. Reporting on school board decision:

District has decided to advance to phase 3, which represents a “moderate increase of students to return”. The plan applies to grades PreK to grade 3. Additionally all students in the A-base and C-base programs (regardless of grade) will have the option to return to in-person instruction.

All K-3 will be a 2-day in-person hybrid; Sped programs will go to 4-days in person learning. Friday will be asynchronous for everyone.

II. Q & A:

Q: Will students who are learning in person have an in-person teacher or a virtual teacher?

A: Not definitive, K-3 will have in-person teacher. SPED student 4th grade and up may or may not have an in-person teacher, but will have in-person adult support.

“We are all advocating for the ideal; this is what we are working towards. There will not be one universal rule, but we are making every effort to approach the ideal.”

Q: Will OT, PT, and SLP still be virtual?

A: Yes, as related to CDC guidelines. Most of our related service providers are not anchored to a classroom. Therefore have greater exposure to more people. As a result they will be largely virtual. We are still working through a concrete plan.

Q: Have you polled the SPED teachers about their feelings about teaching in person?

A: We did not separate out SPED teachers from the general population of teachers surveyed.

Q: How will this change the schedule, amount, or services of students receiving in-person instruction now?

A: TBD. Some adjustments will be made but we will do our best to maintain the integrity of existing schedules.

Q: How many more students will be coming back in?

A: Presently, there are 81 students in person. We are looking to increase that to 785 students in November. This is the number of students who are invited, not necessarily those who will opt-in.

Q: Can you comment on the length of the school day for phase 3? Will there be flexibility?

A: It will be the typical bell schedule that school's followed before. We will do our best to accommodate all students. We are not going to make students stay for a full day, but we also do not want to see IEP's changed as a result of the schedule change.

Q: How are other IEP student being invited back and when? What about students with 504 plans?

A: There is no special provision for students who are B-base or have 504 plan. We are currently working on the timeline.

Q: There are families who have more than one child with an IEP. Is there any consideration of reaching out to those families to see if both children can come back at the same time?

A: That would be in stage 4.

Q: You mentioned not changing IEPs, however the current schedule forces us to work around some things such that the services in the IEP are not met.

A: We have to look at due process choices to guide us as well as case law—the precedent is that the IEP is looked at as a whole for the year. Example—number of minutes provided in the schedule. Essentially, will do our best to follow the “spirit of the law rather than the letter of the law”—the primary goal is to meet individual children's needs, and we can amend IEPs if parents request/agree to it. But as a division, we are not promoting mass changes to IEPs.

Q: Will reverse inclusion happen for PreK this year?

A: For now, no.

Q: What about mask wearing for SPED students?

A: The big message is—there are NOT exceptions for kids with disabilities. If you come in the school, you have to have your mask on. The policy is masks. We are not moving toward exceptions, we are moving towards a skill.

Q: Are any Ivy Creek students currently in person?

A: Yes, they are doing a hybrid program like many of our day programs, VIA, etc.

III. Parent Resource Center (Kevin Kirst and Michael Armstrong)

We are going to ramp up our efforts to provide parent resources. Michael Armstrong is present to address this.

-It was a purely financial decision to decide to discontinue the parent resource center at Pantops. We will be picking that up and providing it internally.

-During COVID, the parent resource center is working on getting the lending library as soon as possible. We are looking at providing a link to a website with resources. I (Michael) am fielding questions of parents. Kevin notes we will start an “opt-in” listserv for a monthly newsletter. We would like to shift our support to stories for parents and not just events. We are trying to get some energy behind it.

Parent Council Meeting Update:

Parent council is a group of all the PTO reps from every school. They meet 1x/month. They function similarly to a SEAC, but they are not as formal. It is a public meeting. In the first meeting they were primarily discussing creating a fund similarly to the reopening Charlottesville fund, no conclusions. Dr. Hass spoke and answered questions, not super relevant to SPED.

Health Advisory Update:

Last meeting was largely spent discussing whether they should move into phase 3. Ultimately the board decided to submit a letter in favor of moving forward to phase 3.

4. Kevin moves that everyone who is on the list is now formally appointed through the superintendent and school board. Schools with more than 1 member will have 1 voting member, the person with the earliest time stamp. Community members are individual votes. We only need 1/3rd of members to have a quorum.

Video recording of meetings:

School attorney is researching whether or not we are an extension of the school board or an extension of the superintendent. We would need to submit a motion to the school board. Cate reports that we never have before. Cate, Nicole, and Betsey all speak to say that they would be opposed to posting a recording. No dissenting opinions noted, decided not to take a vote and proceed with other items on the agenda.

Announcements, Resources, Miscellaneous:

-Speaker idea for future meeting: Curry McGuffey Reading Center

-Kevin wants to give the following update to parents in our community: A piece of Ivy Creek School (a special education school for children with emotional/behavioral disabilities) was given to do current special education evaluations. They even created a preschool evaluation center. People are asking if evaluations are back on track. Kevin reports yes, in a very beautiful way.

-Two free concurrent parent summits next week (Oct 19th-22nd) online, one is parenting ADHD and the other is parenting autism. <https://thebehaviorrevolution.com/parenting-summits/>

-ADHD conference Nov 5th-7th. Conference is \$160 dollars and CEs are \$75. Will have access to recordings for 2 weeks afterwards. Sinbad will be the closing speaker but will not be recorded.

www.theadhdconference.com

Meeting concluded at 8:30