

**Ascension Parish Special Education Advisory Council
Annual Report – June 2022 for School Year 2021-2022**

APS SEAC Members for 2021-22:

Jodi Rollins – parent
Honesty Howard – parent & paraprofessional
Sara Recile – Parent Facilitator
Katie Millet – Teacher/Behavior Facilitator
Chair: Lynn Hathaway (non-voting unless tie)

General Meeting Information & Highlights:

The Ascension Parish Special Education Advisory Council (APS SEAC) met on the following dates via ZOOM, quorum was reached at all scheduled meetings:

August 27, 2021 @ Noon
December 3, 2021 @ Noon
February 25, 2022 @ Noon
April 27, 2022 @ 6:00 pm
June 29, 2022 @ Noon - TBD

Positive outcomes from 2021-2022 APS SEAC committee members:

- Increased frequency of SEAC meetings from 3 meetings per year to 6 meetings per year
- Number of meeting attendees increased dramatically – Quorum reached for all meetings, approximately 45 online attendees for February meeting
- Number of SEAC members increased for 2022-2023 APS SEAC from four to ten members with eight of the members being parents (not affiliated with APS)
- Creation of surveys for feedback and input – special education teachers & paraprofessionals, parents of students in special education
- Revised website for Special Education – www.ascensionschools.org/SpecialEducation - increased web presence with online resources and information (ability to update frequently)
- Resources for parents (released August 2022): one page informational sheet & special education binder given to all parents of students in special education
- Recommendation for a parent forum/meeting
- Recommendation to increase advertising for SEAC meetings

August 27, 2021 Meeting Highlights:

SEAC Members present: Jodi Rollins, Sara Recile, Katie Millet, Lynn Hathaway; Absent- Honesty Howard, no other online participants.

Motion approved for APS SEAC efforts focus for 2021-22:

1. Welcome Packet for parents, along with a one page information sheet to outline the IEP process and importance of parents as critical IEP team members (long-term goal of improved web/hub of resources and information for parents).
2. An anonymous survey for teachers to give opinions and feedback regarding needed support in the classroom.

December 3, 2021 Meeting Highlights:

SEAC Members present: Jodi Rollins, Sara Recile, Katie Millet, & Honesty Howard; Lynn Hathaway. Online participant total: ~21 online attendees

Minutes from August 27th meeting approved.

Discussions:

Update on one page informational sheet. Public comment made by Crystal White (parent) would like to see visual or workflow for parents included. Jodi Rollins: Teachers could present the information to make parents feel more comfortable in the process. Katie Millet: should be collaborative in nature and provide resources for parents. Sara Recile: update on welcome packet (work in progress), begins with letter from Special Education. Lynn Hathaway: update on APS website – slated to be up and running in January. Goal to revise our APS special education website to make it more user-friendly and a better resource for parents. Jodi Rollins: request for Wanda August (parent facilitator) to be at next SEAC meeting.

Motions made & approved:

1. Move forward with one pager and welcome packet
2. SEAC meetings every other month (increase number from 3 to 6) AND alternate times between Noon and 6 pm in order to increase attendance of parents
3. Increase number of SEAC members

NOTE: Recommendations approved by Superintendent David Alexander

Informational Presentation from Cynthia Chesterfield from *Families Helping Families* – discussed services and support, along with technical assistance. Contact info given.

February 25, 2022 Meeting Highlights:

SEAC members present: Jodi Rollins, Katie Millet & Sara Recile; Lynn Hathaway; ~45 online attendees.

Minutes from December 3, 2021 meeting approved.

Discussions:

Review of old business APPROVED by Superintendent David Alexander –

- SEAC meetings increased from three to six at alternating times (Noon & 6 pm)
- One page informational sheet for parents & parent welcome packet with user-friendly information for parents

- Increased number of SEAC members from four to eight

Katie Millet gave update on one page informational sheet.

Wanda August (parent facilitator) introduced. Update on APS Special Education section of new Ascensionschools.org/SpecialEducation website (video presented) – launch following Mardi Gras school break. March is Disability & Inclusion Awareness month.

Parent comments – do not want their children to be poster children; it is more about kindness and acceptance than awareness, do not want their children singled out, need real inclusion in general education (school newsletters & on calendars)

On increasing SEAC attendance – parents comments – parents need communication & information, parents need an opportunity to freely express their concerns (separate from SEAC), could help to streamline information to parents, would be a lifeline for parents, parents need voices heard

Motion made & approved – create a separate meeting/forum for parents.

NOTE: inappropriate comment made by attendee “Price” – removed and muted, attendee re-enters under other name. Chair shuts down meeting for all. Zoom security report sent by Lynn Hathaway.

April 27, 2022 Meeting Highlights:

SEAC members present: Jodi Rollins, Katie Millet & Sara Recile; Lynn Hathaway; ~28 online attendees.

NOTE: Additional ZOOM security features put in place due to security issue from last meeting – all participants muted upon entry; SEAC members unmuted throughout meeting; participants unmuted per public comment procedures. Chat to meeting host only to request public comment.

Minutes from February 25, 2022 approved.

Discussions:

Updates as to one pager, welcome packet & surveys given. One pager and welcome packet to be given to all parents with students in special education at start of school year. Anonymous survey for special education teachers & paraprofessionals released prior to end of school year. Parent survey to be released in August for start of school year.

Applications for SEAC for 2022-23 are out and deadline is May 14, 2022 by end of day.

Increasing to eight members. Update – one click accessibility to special education pages of website: www.ascensionschools.org/SpecialEducation

Update on middle school adaptive swings – installed at all eight middle schools.

Public comments made: Lynette Gros – in favor of cameras in special education classrooms, speaking on behalf of her high school student, good to have for checks & balances, privacy factor to consider. Eileen Jorgenson – Kids are lambs when they go to school, not able to explain what happens at school, cameras give them a voice, privacy should not be an issue, negligent not to have cameras, students deserve it.

Discussions around policy – update by Lynn Hathaway: procedures are still with attorneys, working on funding , working to install across the board in all L.C. classrooms. Jodi Rollins – parish should not delay process, let’s be first parish to install.

Extended School Year Services – reviewed process, should have received letter of eligibility or ineligibility; reach out to special education teacher if you disagree, ask for data in decision making process, ask questions if you have concerns about location, time or frequency of ESY services.

Final Meeting of 2021-2022: June 29, 2022 at NOON.