

Ascension Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)
April 26, 2023
6:00 P.M.

In-Person Meeting
LeBlanc Special Services Center
611 N. Burnside Avenue
Gonzales, LA 70737

Meeting Minutes

Call To Order

6:01 P.M., by Director Lynn Hathaway - Chair

Roll Call - 6:03 P.M.

Quorum was present

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Sagan Allen Williams, parent - absent | 6. Lynette Gros, parent - present |
| 2. Lisa Bacala, other stakeholder - absent | 7. Eileen Jorgensen, parent - present |
| 3. Lesly Borskey, parent - absent | 8. Elizabeth King, SPED teacher - present |
| 4. Jade Bridgnac, parent - present | 9. Brian Landry, parent - present |
| 5. Weston Moreau, parent - absent | 10. Marvin Reed, parent - present |

Chair shared protocols for public comment procedures, SEAC purpose & process, & Robert's Rules of Order.

OLD Business

1a. Approval of minutes from February 23, 2023 SEAC meeting

- Motion from Elizabeth King to accept minutes
- Seconded by Lynette Gros
- No Discussion

1b. Parent toolkit - delivered at Primary level; will be distributed in Fall to Middle & High (Hathaway)

- 2500 binders put together with the help of paraprofessionals
- Primary binders have been distributed to be given out at IEP meetings
- Middle and High school binders will be distributed Fall 2023
- This will be a continual process

NEW Business

District Agenda Items

2a. Applications for SEAC 2023-24 (Hathaway)

- Released to public Monday 5/1/2023
- 50% must be parents
- In 2022-23, 80% of the SEAC board is comprised of parents
- The superintendent approves the applications
- 1 year term
- 2023-2024
 - Application information will be sent via school messenger
 - Email on file
 - Will be posted to district website
 - The application deadline is 5/19/2023
 - The superintendent reviews and makes the selection
 - Notification will go out by the end of May 2023

2b. Updates regarding transitions, cameras, and looking forward

TRANSITION (Hathaway)

- King created a survey for transition
- Parents will receive phone calls
- Some folks have already visited schools
- Parent survey questions survey will be put into Google form - this ensures that when kids transition from one place to another, the information is in one location
- Would like feedback or suggestions

LASARD PARENT TRAINING (Hathaway)

- Took place in April 2023
- QR code will allow parents to access resources in Google Drive
- Resources will also be placed on the website
- Hoping that a teacher can step into a new position with this information (Lynette Gros)
- Hoping to improve our communication with schools
- Fall 2023 - would like open sessions

STAFFING UPDATES 2023 - 24 (Hathaway) - 6:19 P.M.

- Trying to get classes down to smaller ratios
 - Added 26 more M/M, 36 more paras, and a number of CSPs
- Increasing behavior team capacity
 - Can't get enough support across district
 - Trying to get to a team per feeder
 - DTHS & EAHS have the most need
 - Not so much in STA & DHS feeders
 - Adding a behavior facilitator and behavior BCBA & BCABA
 - 23-24 - paras will attend more intense trainings

SUMMER BOOTCAMP (Hathaway)

- Hosted last year for staff
- Will offer again this summer
- Areas of focus include: behavior, assistive technology, inclusive practices, administration, how IEPs work, new teachers, paras

CAMERAS (Hathaway)

- Cameras have been installed and mounted in all middle and high schools, and 23 primary schools, there are 4 more primary to go
- All hard drive and software has been purchased
- Hathaway read slide regarding next steps
- How can parents view footage? (Jorgensen)
 - Forms are online now with information (Hathaway)
- What is the timeline once requested? (Gros)
 - Included in the board policy (Hathaway)
- If physical injury, is there an updated timeline (Jorgensen)
 - Yes (Hathaway)
- Will I be able to see how my son is doing in class (Brignac)
 - This is incident based (Hathaway)

Parent Agenda Items -

3a. Parent - sports for inclusion students (Jorgensen) 6:23 P.M.

- Discussed DTHS for Special Olympics and the event at Woodlawn High School
- Are there some things that we can do alongside the school teams, such as track?
- Hathaway introduced Megan Mast, APE Teacher
 - Megan discussed the multiple layers of Special Olympics within the district, Capital Area and Special Olympics Louisiana
 - 14 sports offered in Special Olympics
 - There are opportunities for parents to serve as coaches, and host practice on weekends
 - We could potentially offer 13/14 sports in our parish
 - Discussed options for school teams
 - September 15, 2023 - Special Olympics Louisiana representative will meet with all APE teachers
 - Discussed Local Training Programs (LTPs)
 - How can we organize this as a school? (Jorgensen)
 - Getting students access into the clubs; sports aren't for everyone... there are certain clubs where special needs students could participate. What clubs could special needs students do? (Gros)
 - How can we get all of this organized for parents so that it is accessible - like a roadmap? (Brignac) For the meeting in June, could we discuss what we have, what we don't have, and where we are going? What could kids be part of in the community (Brignac)

Paraprofessional Salaries - Jorgensen 6:55P.M.

- Will put something together
- Salaries are online (Hathaway)
 - Most paras fall into categories 3 or 4; those with associate degrees fall in 5
 - Paras run 180 day work schedule; included snippet from salary schedule online reflecting their gross

- Receive benefits that total \$50,000 per year per salary
- If we want to keep our paras we need to pay them (Gros)
- National average for paras on Indeed.com \$17,053

Public Comment

- Motion to recommend that paraprofessional pay be raised - Brignac; seconded by Eileen Jorgensen
- (Hathaway) an official recommendation will be taken to the superintendent so that this item can be added to the appropriate school board meeting

Upcoming Events

- Hathaway will do a blast out to parents regarding summer events
 - ARC of East Ascension - Summer Shine Day
 - Lions Camp www.lionscamp.org
 - Johnny & Friends
 - Looking for more

Motion to Adjourn by Brignac; Seconded by Gros

Meeting Adjournment - 7:22 P.M. by Director Hathaway