

**Albemarle County Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)
Meeting Minutes for 9/12/23**

Present:

SEAC Committee members:

- Jessica Allen, Ivy Elementary (Chair)
- Erin Kurtz, Agnor-Hurt Elementary
- Amanda Vogel, Baker-Butler Elementary
- Kelly Altizer, Brownsville Elementary (Chair)
- Chris Seaman, Brownsville Elementary
- Laura DeNunzio, Community Representative
- Lauren Downie, Crozet Elementary
- Jaclyn Jacobson, Mountain View Elementary
- Mike Wagner, Murray Elementary
- Jennifer Turner Warner, Murray Elementary (ACPS employee)
- Dee Curry, Scottsville Elementary (ACPS employee)
- Jennifer Beard (Co-Chair)
- Katie Richard, Woodbrook Elementary
- Nicole Group, Community Lab School
- Kim Dean, Henley Middle School
- Kate Gariepy, Journey Middle School
- Kathleen Meneses, Albemarle High School
- Sean Lyons, Monticello High School
- Betsey Soulsby, Community Representative
- Katherine Jenkins, Post High
- Joyce Cooper, Hollymead Elementary
- Lisa Bushey, Hollymead Elementary
- Tanya Evans, Community Member (UVA faculty)
- Tracy McGee, Ivy Elementary
- Alex Silverman, Baker-Butler Elementary

Special Education Admin / District Leadership:

- Dr. Matt Haas, Superintendent
- Dr. Chandra Hayes, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction
- Dr. Daphne Kaiser, Assistant Superintendent for School Community Engagement
- Katy Compel, Director of Special Education
- Ashley Struzik, Assistant Director Special Education
- Dr. Kate Acuff, School Board - Jack Jouett
- Dr. Rebecca Berlin, School Board - White Hall

Guests:

- Jennifer Thompson, (ACPS parent, will be Greer Elementary Rep)
- Catherine Lochner (former SEAC member)
- Katie Fowler (ACPS parent)
- Paige Bowers (ACPS parent)

Meeting opened at 7:01 pm

Introduction of SEAC leadership team for 2023-2024: Jessica Allen (Chair), Kelly Altizer (Co-Chair), Jen Beard (Co-Chair)

Reminder of requirements for remote participation — Zoom link must be requested 24 hours in advance, sick or out of town, 2x per year max.

May 2023 meeting minutes - seconded and approved.

Chris Seaman - nominated and approved as Secretary.

Presentation by Jessica Allen - Introduction and Welcome to SEAC ([slide deck](#))

- Information on ACPS SEAC website
- SEAC documents housed there
 - Bylaws
 - Meeting Minutes
 - Annual Reports
 - Other documents (PPTs, brochures)
- VDOE website - Local Special Education Advisory Committee
- PEATC (Parent Education Advocacy Training Center) website - multiple SEAC trainings throughout year
 - Applications - whoever applies first in May - first and second for each school, extras to community members
 - Majority of the Committee shall be parents of children with disabilities or individuals with disabilities
 - Committee shall include at least one teacher
 - Add'l local school division personnel serve as consultants
- SEAC functions
 - Advise local school division of needs in the education of students with disabilities (annual report)
 - Participate in development of SPED strategies
 - Submit periodic reports and recommendations
 - Help interpret plans to the community
 - Review policies and procedures for provision of special education to SB
 - Participate in review of local school division's annual budget (including budget
- Timeline
 - Engage with your community and encourage feedback
 - SEAC family survey - late Sept/early Oct
 - Annual report - finalized by Nov?, present in Dec?
 - Review of division annual plan, including budget - March?
- Team Rules
 - Respect confidentiality - do not refer to families, students, or school employees by name
 - Respect each member and differing points of view

- Respect people's time and stay on agenda

Presentation by Katy Compel - State of Special Education ([slide deck](#))

- Team Special Education (now Student Services and Special Education Department)
- Who are we? SPED Administrative Team
 - 6 assistants
 - List of Special Education contacts
 - Special Education Department
 - The Glue - Ethel Johnson
 - BRJDC - Blue Ridge Juvenile Detention Center - special education services
 - Tanner Boyle principal
 - Teachers: 5 people
 - CATEC: 1 teacher, 3 TAs for classes
 - Center One: TA
 - Occupational therapists
 - Physical therapists
 - Preschool eval team (6 people)
 - Post High (18-22 age)
 - School psychologists - fully staffed for first time
 - Autism Specialists - currently 3, budgeted for 4
 - Behavior specialists
 - Learning specialist
 - Speech and language pathologists - fully staffed
 - Intensive Support Center - ISC 3 teachers (1 vacant), 4 TAs - Ivy Creek
 - Medicaid specialist - Jennifer Wilson
- Who do we serve?
 - Generalist - serve students in general education setting
 - Services
 - Early childhood special ed
 - Bright stars
 - Blended program
 - ESCE (Agnor Hurt, Baker Butler, Broadus Wood, Brownsville 2), Greer, Hollymead, Mountain View, Stone Robinson, Stony Point
 - Autism self contained. Agnor-Hurt (moved from Woodbrook), Broadus Wood, and Stone Robinson
 - Autism BASE
 - Elementary: Agnor-Hurt (2), Baker-Butler (2), Brownsville (2), Crozet, Greer (2), Hollymead (2), Murray, Mountain View (2), Scottsville, Stone Robinson (2), Stony Point, Woodbrook (2) - missing Ivy, Broadus Wood, and Red Hill
 - Middle: Burley (2), Journey, Henley 2
 - High
 - Behavior BASE
 - Middle: Burley, Journey x2, Lakeside, Walton
 - High: Albemarle 2, Monticello 2, Westerm

- CBASE
- Other programs
 - intensive support center, vocational services at CATEC, ISAEP (GED prep), Center for Learning and Growth
- Piedmont Regional Educational Program
 - Ivy Creek School, services for O&M (blind and visually impaired), Assistive Technology Specialist
- Children's Services Act
 - Private day placements
 - Residential services
 - Wrap around services
- Vacancies - current status - no special education teacher vacancies, some substitute vacancies
- Parent Resource Center - Mr. Armstrong took it over last year - now back partnering with PREP - Stephanie Hicks now in that role

New items:

- UVA Law Community Solutions Clinic (family engagement and survey design) for one semester
 - Logic trees
 - Possible Interviews
- UVA Law working with LAJC on pro bono initiatives - in progress

Discussion - Parent Survey

- Dissemination: email/bright arrow, paper, translation
- How is this survey different than VDOE? VDOE's info goes to the federal government. ACPS has to do their own to get data.
- Timeline for survey in order to get results and report to School Board in December
- Recipients: Families with a student who has an IEP

Current Action Items:

- Jen Beard - ID guest speakers if you know of any
- Committee Representatives:
 - Parent Council (Tanya Evans),
 - [Middle School Master Plan](#) (Nicole) - report on current status of redistricting middle school. 4 options recently proposed for feedback.
- Give out SEAC brochure at every IEP meeting
- Confidentiality of questions to SEAC

Public Comment/Discussion:

- Catherine Lochner - membership in SEAC - what is the selection process. Knows some parents have applied multiple times but not been selected.
- Lisa Bushey - informing incoming parents about option to serve as a SEAC rep
- Caitlin Foley
- Jennifer Thompson - how to engage best with school communities

Adjourn 8:52 pm