



**Fauquier County Public Schools  
Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)**

**October 5, 2023  
FCPS Central Office Complex, Bldg. A**

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chair Amy Hunter. Members in attendance were Amanda Hazlehurst, Amy Hunter, Megan Monnahan (formerly Burnham), and Ryan Perry. Marilyn McCombe and Mandi Wooten were absent due to a work conflict and family illness, respectively. Consulting member Randy Corpening was also present. This meeting was livestreamed via a link on the SEAC page of the FCPS1.org website.

The September meeting minutes were approved unanimously on a motion by Ms. Monnahan and seconded by Mr. Perry.

There was no public comment.

**Presentation:**

Ms. Guzman, Student Services Supervisor, gave a presentation entitled, "Virginia Tiered System of Supports (VTSS) and the Interface with Special Education." There were technical difficulties so the presentation was paused while the ITRT made adjustments. After a brief pause, Ms. Guzman continued with a brief recap of the slides that were presented prior to the SEAC realizing that the audio on the livestream was not working correctly.

**MTSS: Multi-Tiered System of Supports**

- Work with Special Education as a collaboration among all staff
- Based on best practices, high quality instruction for all students
- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) for all learners
- Response to Intervention (RTI) and Tier 2 supports for student struggling to access general education

**RTI: Response to Intervention:**

- School tries increased Tier 2 interventions and monitors for 4-6 weeks
- If there is progress, then back to Tier 1 supports and monitoring

- If no progress, may move to child study or may continue with Tier 2 interventions at increased frequency or duration

Questions/Discussion:

- Do parents have access?
  - Yes, parents are invited to be part of the process and all data is shared with parents.
- What is the process if a parent requests a child study meeting?
  - Child Study Team often refers to RTI data to support and inform the team as they work through the child study process and decision-making.
- Who is involved in the RTI process? Are special education teachers involved?
  - This depends on the situation and areas of concern being addressed.
- How are students in program classrooms included in schoolwide PBIS efforts.
  - Some schools are better at execution, but all schools are working toward inclusive engagement.

**Chairman's Report:**

Mrs. Hunter thanked Ms. Guzman for her presentation. She followed this with a report on the State SEAC meeting, which was held September 28-29. SSEAC speakers included Brittany Everett with the state Council on Higher Education who spoke about barriers to higher education for students with disabilities. Andrew Greenwich, who oversees Virginia IEP, discussed his office's work to strengthen the features of that system. He noted that it is currently used by 116 school divisions. Colleges and universities in Virginia are now training students on the system. New upgrades include a dashboard with compliance information including teacher caseloads. State SEAC members' concerns centered around the parent interface. Mr. Greenwich explained that this is an "add-on", outside of his office's purview. SSEAC members pushed back, saying that anything connected to Virginia IEP should have some level of oversight for compliance and parent involvement by VDOE. SSEAC members also raised concerns about the process for providing partial parental consent via Virginia IEP; some school divisions are apparently giving parents misinformation about the impact of partial consent (saying that partial consent would void the rest of the IEP). Hank Millward, of VDOE's Family Engagement office gave the VDOE update for Samantha Hollins since she was with OSEP representatives in town for a review. The next SSEAC meeting is December 6-8.

**Special Education Director's Report**

In his report, Mr. Corpening explained that the ransomware attack on the county's computer systems has caused interruptions with the Virginia IEP system in the county. He assured the committee that student data is protected, however access to IEPs is currently unavailable. Staff are working with paper documents and will be reaching out to parents as needed until the system is fully operational again.

The county has recognized that transition is an area where more can be accomplished. Administration is currently discussing how to best begin the transition process at the elementary school level giving students the longest lead time to prepare for post-secondary success. Discussions at earlier grade levels will be more basic but will start the dialogue with parents much earlier.

### **Parent Resource Center Report**

Mrs. Hunter gave the PRC report in Dr. Schlechta's absence. Dr. Schlechta has made back-to-school night visits at CH Ritchie and HM Pearson where she spoke with 54 parents. She attended the Connect for Success symposium in September learned a great deal about how to support families whose students have IEPs and 504 plans. She met with representatives from different counties and learned about what would be beneficial for Fauquier County public schools. Much of the conversation at the conference was focused on resources on autism and intellectual disabilities for families. The September PRC online workshop had 36 attendees. Parents' primary interest was the applied studies diploma, which will be addressed more thoroughly at the Transitions and Disabilities Fair in March.

The October PRC workshop, entitled "Understanding Special Education," will be led by Love Kingsbury from PEATC on October 11. Dr. Schlechta will visit school fall festivals and is currently planning for the March 9 fair, which will be held at FHS in the multi-purpose room and cafeteria area. She is finalizing the list of organizations and presenters to be invited, and invitations will go out in October.

### **Old Business**

Ms. Hunter expressed concern about having SEAC representation from all areas of the county. SEAC members identified counties they are affiliated with (residence or school), and it appears that Lee District schools may not have representation. There are still vacant seats on the SEAC and anyone interested should email [SEAC@FCPS1.org](mailto:SEAC@FCPS1.org) for more information. Members also discussed tentative topics for presentations at upcoming SEAC meetings:

November "I'm Determined"  
January N2Y and Technology in Special Ed Classrooms  
February Update on ELA and Virginia Literacy Act Implementation  
March First-person experiences of individuals with disabilities

Additional issues to be addressed throughout the year include Special Education Budget (March), Restraint and Seclusion Report, FCPS Inclusive Practices Plan Development, and March 2024 Disability Awareness Month.

**New Business**

SEAC members discussed issues and activities of interest. Ms. Hazlehurst reported on the Auburn special education teachers' plans to attend the Aspire Educators Symposium being put on by "I'm Determined" November 6-7 in Virginia Beach. Ms. Monnahan raised the issue of establishing SEAC excellence awards. She volunteered to lead to initiative and will report back to the committee with recommended next steps. Mr. Corpening suggested reaching out to the School Board representative to the SEAC but was uncertain who that individual is at this time. Mrs. Hunter will follow up with the School Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm following approval of a motion by Megan Monnahan that was seconded by Ryan Perry.

Prepared by:  
Amanda Hazlehurst  
Acting Secretary

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