



## **Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)**

### **Minutes**

**February 2, 2023**

**Members Present:** Megan Burnham, Amanda Hazlehurst, Amy Hunter, Marilyn McCombe, Ryan Perry, Mandi Wooten

**Member Absent:** Heidi Van Voorhis

**Consulting Member:** Randy Corpening

**Consulting Members Absent:** Janelle Sutliff, Robin Verity

**1. Call to Order at 6:40 pm**

**2. Welcome and Introductions**

**3. Approval of the Minutes:** Minutes of the January 5, 2023, meeting were approved following a motion by Marilyn McCombe that was seconded by Megan Burnham.

**4. Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

**5. Presentation: “Presentation of the Inclusive Practices Plan”** by Randy Corpening, Director of Special Education (slides will be distributed with these meeting minutes).

- Mr. Corpening noted that it is difficult to describe what inclusive practices are. A lot is left to interpretation of the school board and school division.
- This is a 3-year process that is currently focused on a proposed “Initial Action Plan”
  - Develop a Division-wide Vision for Inclusive Practices
  - Developing training opportunities to give more formalized guidance for IEP teams to consider
  - Incorporating state-provided forms for inclusive instructional planning
    - Training opportunities will be offered to general education teachers on inclusive best practices as well
    - Trainings will be optional for now

- The special education office will monitor through periodic IEP reviews—looking for standards-based goals, meeting notices, and verification that documents were sent to parent/guardian two days prior
- Action Plan is required to be shared with the local SEAC and School Board. Mr. Corpening will present at the February 13 School Board Meeting.

**6. SEAC Policy Discussion:** In preparation for the 2022-23 annual report to the School Board, SEAC members began discussing its policy recommendations. Members reviewed the recommendations from the 2021-22 report, and discussed areas for proposed change. Mrs. Hunter will reach out to individual SEAC members to develop draft language for consideration by the committee at the March meeting. The following issue areas were discussed:

- **Inclusive Practices:**
  - Training for inclusive practices: what exactly does that look like?
  - Inclusive practice efforts need to span across sports, clubs, websites, teacher training, etc.
  - Not just a special education department issue
  - N2Y Curriculum:
    - This curriculum has been adopted for elementary and middle schools.
    - Mr. Corpening will be requesting 11 licenses for high school teachers to expand this curriculum to high school level next year.
    - Update 1.1-1.3 recommendations to align with the new inclusive practices
- **Multi-Sensory Literacy Training:** Possibly add recommendation for funding request to continue LMB after COVID funding has been exhausted.
- **Student and Staff Mental Health:** Add recommendation for support of expanding the positions for social workers, particularly having one in middle school.
- **American Sign Language:** Mrs. Hunter will reach out to Saralyn Aylor to get status update on addition of third year of ASL
- **NEW—Twice Exceptional Students:** Draft a recommendation regarding twice exceptional students (Megan Burnham is going to work on this)
- **NEW—Special Education Staffing/Compensation:** Mr. Corpening mentioned the difficulty in hiring/attracting highly qualified special education teachers. Is there a way to incentivize special education teachers to come to FCPS or encourage general education teachers to dual certify? Are there other options for developing new teachers from within FCPS?

## 7. Reports/Announcements

- **Chairman's Time:**
  - Thanks to Haley Schlechta for her work on the VAIEP portal training event for parents
  - Would like to offer a live stream of meetings next year, and asked Mr. Corpening to find out what that would entail
  - Requested an update on special education staffing (teachers and IAs)
- **Special Education Director's Time:**
  - FCPS has submitted the state review. On-site visit to FCPS Special Education Office will follow. FCPS will prepare a corrective action plan to address any issues raised by the state. The report from the state will be shared with the public.
- **Parent Resource Center Announcements:**
  - The Disability and Transitions Fair will be held at Fauquier High School on March 26, 4:00-6:00

## 8. Old Business

- **Remaining 2022-23 Meeting Dates and Presentation Topics:**
  - March 2: "Special Education Budget" (Randy Corpening, Director of Special Education)
  - NO MEETING IN APRIL
  - May 4: Discussion and Approval of Annual Report
- **2023 Disability Awareness Month Planning**
  - The SEAC is very pleased with the success and growth of Disability Awareness Month since its inception in 2019, and believes that it is one of FCPS's vital inclusive practices. SEAC members concluded that the SEAC is no longer able to be the primary lead on the October events. Since the SEAC is a volunteer school board advisory committee, the school division is better equipped to coordinate the events within the schools, including the poster contest and middle school awareness event, as well as development of new programming for high school students. The SEAC would like to encourage a shift in focus from "awareness" to "inclusion" in conjunction with the Inclusive Practices Action Plan, and would like to work with FCPS leadership and staff to plan future programming and resources for these October events. SEAC members also stressed the importance of these events being division-wide efforts—not just special education initiatives.
    - Mr. Corpening said that he will work with senior staff to determine how best to proceed.

- Chrissy Yonkey has asked for contact information to coordinate planning for the middle school event with a program by “A Place to Be”

- **March 16 Disability and Transition Fair at FHS**

- SEAC will host a table
- Meghan Burnham and Ryan Perry will represent the SEAC
- Amy Hunter will prepare a draft SEAC brochure prior to the March SEAC meeting

**9. New Business:** There was no new business.

**The meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.**

**Prepared by: Amanda Hazlehurst, Secretary**