

## **APPROVED @ December 13, 2023 SEAC Meeting**

### **Ascension Special Education Advisory Council**

October 25, 2023

6:00pm

In-Person (with virtual option)

LeBlanc Special Services Center

#### **Call to Order**

(6:02pm) by Director Lynn Hathaway, chair

**Roll Call** - (6:03 pm) - Quorum met.

1. Savannah Veron - present
2. Darla Capello - present (virtual)
3. Nathalia Dickson - not present
4. Adrienne Kelly - present
5. Raven LaBiche - present (virtual)
6. Jodie Landry - not present
7. Kheri Monks - present
8. Jacqueline Paige - not present
9. Ilesha Sims - present
10. Lakeshia Taylor - present (virtual)

Chair (Hathaway) introduced herself and welcomed everyone for attending the meeting. She shared that some SEAC Members would be attending virtually, and took roll. Chair continued by reviewing the agenda for the meeting:

Old Business - 1.a. Approval of minutes from August 23, 2023 meeting

New business - 2.a. Parent Resource Fair, 2.b. By-laws for SEAC, and 3.a. Focus Area for 2023-2024

Hathaway reminded the parents to utilize the comment cards as a means to add suggestions or comments that they feel are important. She explained that we are operating as a public meeting, and reviewed the open meeting and public comment procedures. Hathaway then reviewed the purpose of SEAC and the expectations.

#### **Old Business**

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

Savannah Veron - motion to accept the minutes

Kheri Monks - seconded

Motion Passed

#### **New Business**

District Agenda Items:

##### **2.a. Parent Resource Fair**

- Parent Facilitators, Jemecko Lewis and Sarah Recile presented the Parent Resource Fair and discussed the Why? When? And Where? Of the Resource Fair.
- The target date is in the Spring of 2024, tentatively March.
- The parent facilitators asked the members and audience what would they like to see at the fair?
- The parent facilitators shared the categories and topics that will be discussed and represented at the fair which includes: Health, Transitions/Post - Secondary, Recreational/Community, and Education.

- The parent facilitators had anchor charts with each category written on the chart, to write down ideas and notes as they were shared.
- Adrienne Kelly asked, Will this be an event for parents only to get knowledge and learn from or will it be a whole family event?
- Jamecko Lewis responded that this event will be a whole family event for the family to come and learn about.
- Darla Cappelo suggested adding legal and financial as a sector to add to the fair.
- Adrienne Kelly suggested receiving help from vendors under the health category.
- Savannah Veron also added occupational, speech and other service related providers can help and assist with the health section of the fair.
- Nicole Grimes, supervisor, shared that she could reach out to the Special Olympics and inform them of the fair so that they could come out and share knowledge about their “Healthy Athletes” program.
- Lynn Hathaway also added how she expects to have her team present at the fair for parents to talk to, such as the behavior team, OT, PT, Speech, and etc.
- Adrina Million, Supervisor suggested having the Special Needs Counselors present at the fair as well to address mental health.
- Adrienne Kelly suggested making the event inclusive by including not only students with exceptionalities, but all students.
- Lynn Hathaway agreed, and shared how they could include East Ascension High School Beta students to assist with helping.
- Nicole Grimes also mentioned how Dutchtown High School has a peer program, and that we can reach out to that group of students as well.
- Shondra James vocalized how we should work on bringing awareness of exceptionalities within the schools and the community. We should educate all of our students on the different exceptionalities and how we are all different, but the same.
- Darla Capelo suggested putting the resources online for all of the parents who can not attend the resource fair to have access to.
- Kheri Monks stated in order to advertise the event, we can send flyers home with all of the students, not only SPED students.
- Savannah Veron added for marketing, that we could contact businesses in the surrounding area and ask them to post the event online or in their flyers/ads and utilize social media.
- Lynn Hathaway mentioned that we can also advertise the event on the APSB digital billboard and individual school billboards.

Chair, Lynn Hathaway, wrapped up the parent resource fair discussion by asking the members and the audience to brainstorm and think of a name for the fair. She shared how excited she was about this event and how the comments and suggestions shared were great and amazing ideas. She expressed her hopes of this event becoming a bi-annual event that would be resourceful for the parents and our community.

## **2.b. By-laws for SEAC**

Chair, Lynn Hathaway discussed drafted ideas for the SEAC By-laws which included:

- SEAC team members, 2 year term with 50% remaining in place each year versus the current year.
- West Side Representation
- Membership Composition
  - Diversity in membership
  - Males and Females
- Meeting Days and Times
- Alternates Members for those who can not participate or attend the meeting.

Chair, Lynn Hathaway passed out a sample of By-laws from other districts to the team members and offered a copy of the samples to those in the audience. She shared that a draft of By-laws will need to be composed,

then the team will create and adopt their own By-laws. She asks the team to review the sample By-laws by December, 2023.

Parent Agenda Items:

**3.a. Focus Area for 2023-24**

Chair, Lynn Hathaway, shares the areas of focus for SEAC 2023-2024

Inclusive Opportunities for students, April Dunn, Transition, Jumpstart Opportunities, literacy screeners (DIBELS), social connections & concerns, curriculum (Unique), interdiction tutorship, additional resources for parents.

Chair, Lynn Hathaway shares upcoming events. On November 28th at 6:30pm, Ascension Parish School Board will recognize our Special Olympics Athletes at the school board meeting at Central Middle School. The next SEAC Meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2023 at 12pm.

Motion to close out meeting

Kheri Monks - motion to close meeting

Savanah Veron - seconded

Motion passes - Meeting adjourned