

**Ascension Parish Special Education Advisory
Annual Report 2023-24
*Approved at April 24, 2024 SEAC Meeting***

APS SEAC Members for 2023-24:

1. Savannah Veron -parent
2. Darla Capello - parent
3. Nathalia Dickson - parent
4. Adrienne Kelly - parent
5. Raven LaBiche - community stakeholder
6. Jodie Landry - parent
7. Kheri Monks - parent
8. Jacqueline Paige - Special Education Teacher
9. Iesha Sims - parent
10. Lakeshia Taylor - parent

Chair: Lynn Hathaway, Director of Special Education (non-voting unless tie)

General Meeting Information & Highlights: The Ascension Parish Special Education Advisory Council (APS SEAC) met on the following dates (in-person meetings with virtual option).

2023-24 SEAC Meeting Dates:

- ✓ August 23, 2023 @ NOON
- ✓ October 25, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.
- ✓ December 13, 2023 @ NOON
- ✓ February 21, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.
- ✓ April 24, 2024 @ NOON
- June 26, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m. (last meeting scheduled for 23-24)

2023-24 SEAC meeting information:

- SIX meetings scheduled (bi-monthly)
 - Offered in-person meetings with virtual option
 - Rotated meetings between NOON and 6 p.m. to give parents options for attending ●
- SEAC Council includes ten members with eight parents, one special education teacher & one community stakeholder

Highlights & Agenda Items from SEAC Meetings

August 23, 2023 @ NOON:

Superintendent attended SEAC meeting.

Minutes from previous meetings (4/26/2023 & 6/28/2023). District gave update on the installation of cameras in all of our classrooms who meet criteria (all SWSD self-contained classrooms). All cameras active on first day of school for 2023-24. Possible by-laws for SEAC was discussed. SEAC team and audience (via public comment) participated in a discussion of

possibly changing SEAC member terms to two years with a 50% rotation. SEAC team begin to discuss possible focus areas for 2023-24 SEAC activities.

October 25, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.

SEAC minutes from August 23, 2023 approved. APS Parent Facilitators Jamekco Lewis and Sara Recile presented ideas for a possible Resource Fair for parents of special education students. The target date would be Spring 2024. Parents gave feedback about possible categories and topics for the Resource Fair. Sample by-laws for SEAC were shared. Focus areas for 2023-24 were shared (from parent & team feedback): Inclusive opportunities for students, April Dunn, Transition, Jumpstart opportunities, literacy screeners (DIBELS) social connections & concerns, Unique curriculum, interdiction tutorship, additional resources for parents.

December 13, 2023 @ NOON

SEAC minutes from October 25, 2023 were approved. Parent Facilitators Sara Recile and Jamekco Lewis provided updates regarding planning for the Special Education Resource Fair in Spring of 2024. Time and place set to March 7, 2024 at East Ascension High School Cafetorium. Focus areas for Resource Fair (from parent feedback): Health, Transitions/Post-secondary, and Recreational/Community Education. Parent survey results were shared. Resource Fair committees to meet on January 10, 2024. Two new transition curriculums were implemented for high school students. Dr. Jennifer Vicknair, Special Education Coordinator presented SOAR learning for study skills classes. Gerald Cowart, Special Education Coordinator presented ORI learning which is geared towards transition needs of our students: essential skills, employment readiness, and well-being.

February 21, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.

SEAC minutes from December 13, 2023 were approved. Final updates regarding the upcoming Special Education Resource Fair were provided. Slight change in location from East Ascension High Cafetorium to the East Ascension High gymnasium. Forty-six community organizations/providers were confirmed to be at the Resource Fair. The Resource Fair Flyer is posted to APSB Billboard and also to website. Paper flyers have been printed and will go out to every parent on February 26, 2024. Sheriff's department will be providing jambalaya and this will be a child-friendly Resource Fair. Marsha Clanton, former parent of two graduated special education students from Dutchtown High presented on a bill that she authored with a state legislator on the Autism Spectrum Disorder Decal. In addition, she discussed a bill that she is currently working on regarding interdiction tutorship. Ms. Clanton presented a very informative discussion around the importance of tutorship and starting the process early. Parents asked many questions and shared their experiences.

March 7, 2024: 1st Annual Special Education Parent Resource Fair

The First Annual Special Education Resource Fair was held at East Ascension High Gymnasium on March 7, 2024 at 5:40 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Several hundred parents attended this event. Over fifty community organizations/providers who work with children & families with special needs were presented booths. Activities for students included food (jambalaya, pizza, popcorn, cotton candy), face-painting, adaptive games (bowling), play space, sensory area and

more. The Resource Fair was featured in The Advocate. Feedback will be gathered in order to improve the event and make it an annual event for families.

April 24, 2024 @ NOON - Agenda items listed below.

SEAC minutes from February 21, 2024 approved. Feedback from the Special Education Resource Fair was taken in order to improved the event. Discussion concerning SEAC membership revisions to create and maintain consistency. Recommendations approved to send to Superintendent Dr. Edith Walker. Discussions around paraprofessional pay with possible Recommendation to Superintendent. Discussion around Special education structures, complaint process, LDOE Resolution. Transition 5th to 6th, 8th to 9th, & re-districting with feedback from parent audience presented by Special Education Coordinator Monique Moore.

June 26 , 2024 @ 6:00 p.m. - not yet held