

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
ST. JAMES PARISH SCHOOLS

Notice: A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) was scheduled for Thursday, December 8, 2022 at 6:00PM at the School Board Meeting Room.

SEAC MEETING MINUTES

1. Senecca Boudreaux, Director of Special Education and Chairman of SEAC, called the meeting to order at 6:01PM.
2. Renee' Frye led the prayer.
3. Tammy Templet led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Sadie Becnel did the roll call. The following members were present: Senecca Boudreaux, Tammy Templet, Dr. Melissa Roussel, Roxanne Washington, Donna Arceneaux, Ken Brass, and Renee Frye. Absent members were: April Cole and Madeline Young.
5. Senecca Boudreaux, Council Chairman, welcomed all parents and guests in audience. Then the Chairman
 - a. reviewed the public comments procedures
 - b. reviewed the SEAC process
 - c. asked each member to introduced themselves to the audience
6. The Chairman opened discussion on old business, which included the continuation of a discussion from the 10/13/2022 SEAC meeting.
7. The Chairman recapped on the previous agenda item discussion in which council member Dr. Melissa Roussel shared concerns and recommendations regarding community and school awareness and involvement, concerns about special needs students not being shown equally on district website, and the community lacking arts for special needs students.
8. The Chairman noted that the St. James Parish Recreational Administrator and Opportunity Now representatives were invited to the meeting this evening to address concerns and share available resources in reference to this previous discussion. The Chairman introduced Brent Dicharry, St. James Parish Recreational Administrator.
9. Brent Dicharry shared a presentation about making the districts' recreational parks more accessible to children with special needs. Sport programs for children with special needs such as Special Olympics, Buddy Baseball and Buddy Soccer were also recommended by council members Ken Brass and Dr. Melissa Roussel. Brent Dicharry extended an invitation to the council to meet with him to share any ideas that will help his department make the recreational parks more handicap accessible.
10. The Chairman thanked Brent Dicharry for his participation in the meeting and thanked council member Ken Brass for inviting him. The Chairman then introduced representatives from Opportunity Now.
11. Kemya Babers, Erin Champagne and Rod Washington, representatives from Opportunity Now, shared services offered to youths and young adults with special needs such as life skills, study skills, motor and engagement, school, college and work transition. They also shared information about Project Create, in which they collaborate with our local businesses to hire students with disabilities. Dr. Melissa Roussel suggested that Opportunity Now join forces with the Capable Arts Program. The Chairman announced that discussions will begin soon to have Opportunity Now extend their mentoring program to 4th-6th grade students. The Chairman thanked Opportunity Now for their participation in the meeting and for the services they provide to students in our schools.
12. The Chairman opened discussion on new business.
 - a. A district agenda item, which included information on funding for cameras in Self-Contained classrooms was shared. Funding, that does not expire, was awarded to provide cameras. Procedures and policy are in process for utilization and will have to be approved by the school board. One parent has requested the installation of a camera in a self-contained classroom.
13. There were no Parent Agenda Items on the agenda.

14. The Chairman introduced a Council Agenda Item requested by council member Dr. Melissa Roussel for discussion on Programming versus true Individualized Education. The floor was opened for discussion.
15. Dr. Melissa Roussel shared concerns in regards to students with Individualized Education Plans receiving more programmed type of education instead of individualized education that will meet individual needs. Dr. Roussel stated that programs like iREADY and aimsweb are not as individualized as a student's Individualized Education Plan. The Chairman explained that iREADY and aimsweb are used in the district as progress monitoring tools to help measure students' growth and to drive instruction. The Chairman also explained that progress monitoring is necessary for accountability. Council Member Tammy Templet shared that iREADY is a prescriptive program that helps to identify a student's strengths and weaknesses, and it provides prescriptive lessons to address student's needs. The discussion ended with the Chairman sharing that there are some issues with the delivery of specialized instruction, which is affected by many issues such as the teacher shortage and the hiring of non-certified teachers. The Chairman stated that training on the delivery of specialized instruction will be her top priority.
16. The Chairman acknowledged that there were no public comments requested.
17. The Chairman asked for any closing comments from council members. A positive closing remark was made by Dr. Melissa Roussel about receiving four robo calls in regards to tonight's SEAC meeting. The Chairman thanked Opportunity Now, Brent Dicharry and all parents/guests in the audience again for joining tonight's meeting. The next meeting date was shared with the audience along with the council's email address to send any agenda items for the next meeting.
18. The Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On motion by Ken Brass, seconded by Tammy Templet, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06pm.