

St. Charles Parish Public Schools  
Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)  
Tuesday, December 5, 2023  
9:00 am - 10:30 am  
Meeting Minutes

Members present: Mendy Van Hoven, Cierra Puryear, Erin Baker, Precious Alexander, Lolita Grant, Amber Pinero, Breah Alario, Dameion Dabney, Lindsey Hinkle, and Victoria Bryant

Members absent: Katie Foster and Jessica Rownd

Presenter present: Shaun Crochet, IEP and Special Programs Facilitator

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Cierra Puryear. All members reviewed and agreed to meeting outcomes and norms.

- Cierra Puryear and Victoria Bryant gave an overview of information shared at the Arc National Convention. The convention was hosted in New Orleans on November 6-8, 2023.
  - Information was shared about how youth ambassadorship helps young adults with disabilities learn advocacy, supported decision-making, and alternatives to guardianship.
  - Cierra Puryear shared a video from the Arc that tells the stories of young adults with disabilities and the importance of supported decision-making.  
<https://youtu.be/4D9a7PfH1kk?si=cFLgZHgmc2aixZv5>
  - Feedback from the council:
    - For parents that need resources and more information on topics such as guardianship, what can we do to present information or share resources available?
    - Suggestion: Create a Google form for parents with disabilities to have access to the ongoing information. They can include at the beginning of the year.
    - Suggestion: SEAC team will work on a document for teachers to share at IEP meetings. This document will have links and information from GNO FHF and Exceptional Lives.

- Cierra Puryear gave a recap of the parent support group.
  - The meeting was held November 14, 2023 at the PLC at 5:00 - 6:30pm.
  - 0 in-person participants, 1 virtual
  - The meeting was advertised on the district's social media 3 weeks in advance. A reminder post was also shared a week before the meeting date. The flier was advertised on the district's Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.
  - Christina Kozik, Community Engagement Specialist with Exceptional Lives attended to present. Since there were no in-person attendees and one virtual, Christina recorded a live video that can be shared with parents. Christina explained how Exceptional Lives can be an additional resource tool for parents and professionals in special education. The online resource tool has podcasts on various topics, a special education glossary, and online database of different services/providers in Louisiana by zip code, etc.
  - Feedback from the council:
    - Many did not know there was a parent meeting
    - Are teachers sharing this information?
    - How can we make sure the information is being shared?
  
- Cierra Puryear provided an update of old business from the 9/26/23 SEAC meeting and also shared resources/upcoming events in December.
  - Contact information for all members has been updated and sent to the Public Information Coordinator to post to the district website.
  - Tracy Blanchard has resigned from her position. Her seat does not need to be filled at this time due to the number of members already on the council.
  - Everyone should have received access to input ideas on the Google Doc.
  - Resources/Events:
    - ASGNO 2nd Sensory-Friendly Santa 12/9
    - Grinchmas at the Ree Alario Special Needs Center 12/9
    - Understanding Mental Health Diagnosis in Childhood 12/11

- Exceptional Lives Webinar 12/7
  - Families Helping Families Parent/Caregivers Network Meeting 12/19
  - C W Learning Disabilities Conference 3/7/24
  - Special Needs Holiday Camp 12/18-12/21 and 12/26-12/29
  - Sensory Friendly Playtime at the Louisiana Children's Museum 12/7, 1/4/24, 1/18/24
- Shaun Crochet, IEP and Special Programs Facilitator revisited the topic of funding priorities in relation to student needs. A recap was provided of ideas from the last SEAC meeting and members were given the opportunity to add additional ideas.
- Some new ideas presented were:
    - social/emotional/behavior curriculums for middle school to high school grade bands
    - Financial literacy for SWD prior to 12th grade and post secondary transition
    - Allow ABA therapists into schools
    - Increase of speech therapy time
    - PD/learning opportunities for families
- The council was given 15 minutes for open floor discussion to share upcoming meetings topics or other areas of importance.
- Lastly, a meeting evaluation was conducted by Cierra Puryear in regards to results and processes.