

St. Charles Parish Public Schools
Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)
Tuesday, September 26, 2023
9:00 am - 10:30 am
Meeting Minutes

Members present: Mendy Van Hoven, Cierra Puryear, Breah Alario, Jessica Round, Precious Alexander, Lindsey Hinkle, Amber Pinero, Kathryn Foster, Lolita Grant, and Tracy Blanchard.

Absent: Victoria Bryant

Presenters present:

Shaun Crochet, IEP and Special Programs Facilitator for SCPPS
Julie Folse, Assistant Director for Bayou Land Families Helping Families

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Mrs. Van Hoven and Ms. Puryear. There was an introduction of council members. All council members were in agreement on meeting outcomes, meeting norms, and the vision, purpose, and focus of SEAC.

- Cierra Puryear provided the council with guiding documents, which were the SEAC handbook, ethics/confidentiality statement, and contact information.
 - All attending members agreed to the policy and procedures.
 - All members agreed to have only their names and email listed on the contact information. This information will be posted on the district's website.

- Shaun Crochet, IEP and Special Programs Facilitator requested feedback from the council on ways federal funding can be prioritized concerning student needs.
 - Federal funding can be allocated for staffing, Early Childhood, contracted services (ex: PT, OT, APE services, etc.), instruction material and supplies, and professional development.

- Council members gave some ideas such as IEP training for families, tutoring for sped students, sports/participating in sports, training on safety for sped students, summer opportunities for sped students, and also sped awards.

- Julie Folse, Assistant Director for Bayou Land Families Helping Families presented information to the council on ways their services can be used to assist families and schools.
 - Bayou Land Families Helping Families (BLFHF) is a non-profit organization that assists parents of children with disabilities ranging from birth to forever. Their mission is to bridge the gap between schools and parents and develop partnerships.
 - All services provided by BLFHF are FREE to parents!
 - BLFHF is working on a grant with the Arc of LA to bridge the gap in employment for those with disabilities. For this grant, there will have to be 3 focus groups. The focus groups will consist of professionals, parents, and students with disabilities.
 - Mrs. Folse reminded everyone that there is an upcoming presentation on mental health on October 10, 2023, from 9 am - 4 pm. Registration is required and the presentation will be offered virtual and in-person.

- Mendy Van Hoven provided the council with an update on the newest initiatives in special education.
 - LASARD is providing:
 - Training for special educators and paraeducators
 - Para CoP
 - Monthly district meetings
 - Coaching and modeling
 - Resources and best practices for teachers and administration

 - There is now a SPED Social Emotional Learning Coach. She is supporting students with high social-emotional needs (PK-12),

working with families on the implementation of appropriate supports, and providing targeted SEL instruction to students.

- Mendy Van Hoven provided the council with next steps:
 - Update council members' contact information to just name and email. This will be posted on the district's website.
 - Cierra Puryear will create a Google Doc for council members to add ideas for funding.
 - Upcoming mental health workshop on 10/10/23 at BLFHF.

- Lastly, a meeting evaluation was conducted by Cierra Puryear regarding results and processes.