

**SEAC Meeting Minutes - June 26, 2024**  
**Approved at August 21, 2024 SEAC Meeting**

**Ascension Special Education Advisory Council**

June 26, 2024

6:00 p.m.

In-Person Meeting (with virtual option)

LeBlanc Special Services Center

**Call to Order**

(6:01pm) by Chair, Lynn Hathaway

Lynn Hathaway, Chair, review SEAC meeting agenda.

LH - We will announce our new SEAC Members today during this meeting, and the meat of today's meeting is discussing the Glow and Grows from this year.

**Roll Call**

(6:02pm) - Quorum met

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

Chair shares with the audience and members that we follow open meeting and public comment procedures.

LH - If you are online and would like to add on to the conversation please comment in the comment box. LH discusses the purpose and responsibilities of SEAC.

LH - At the last meeting we officially approved the annual report and you can view that online.

**Old Business**

1.a. Approval of minutes from April 24, 2024 SEAC meeting

Nathalia Dickson - Motion to approve minutes

Adrienne Kelly - Second Motion

Minutes Approved from April 24, 2024 SEAC Meeting

1.b. Recommendations made to Superintendent

LH goes over approvals and updates from the previous meeting on April 24, 2024

Superintendent approved increasing the term of SEAC members from one year to two years as well as increasing the number of SEAC members from ten members to twelve members.

**New Business**

District Agenda Items

## 2.a. SEAC Members for 2024-2025

LH - We used an interview team that consisted of our supervisors and two coordinators. I think we had 25 applicants. This was our 1st time doing this process.

LH - We made some recommendations to our superintendent. The superintendent agreed to the approval and updates and this was a good idea.

LH shares information about the new SEAC team members...

LH - We have representation from all feeds and we also have someone from each level, as well as mother and fathers. We have a diverse group.

LH - Another announcement is the superintendent will have a parent co-chair with me, and we have Mrs. Jodi Rollins as our new parent co-chair. She will be working with me and we are very excited.

## 2.b. Reflections on SEAC 2023-2024 - GLOWS & GROWS for 2024-25

LH opens the floor for audience members to share ways to improve SEAC.

LH - What are some other things we want to happen for this team?

AK - Mini webinar and training for our parents and students.

LH - I think that's a good idea

JR - When advertising for SEAC, I would like for our principals to advertise it on their school website. I think it needs to be a requirement, and it's important to advertise these meetings because we want the parents here.

JR - I think a webinar is a good idea. I represent a lot of parents, and also new training for the principals. I think it will help LeBlanc staff if the principal and ODR know their responsibility during an IEP meeting. JR - We should have a lot more parents coming to the meetings, we can do drawing officer snacks as ways to encourage parents to participate and voice their concerns. This can also be a social aspect because parents and students don't get out a lot.

LH - I think a meet and greet before the meeting would be great.

ND - We discussed this but a support group for the parents to discuss and vent would be great, and maybe yall can give us tips and support on how to navigate the process at home. Some type of parent liaison at each school to inform new parents of the resources and let them know that someone is there for them. A peer or parent like them that welcomes them.

LH - Possibly from this team we can have someone

KM - Support group, maybe a resource directory that lists the agencies on the website from the fair.

JP - Some of this can start at the school level.

JR - I have seen some of LeBlanc's Staff support and work with the schools and it falls right back on LeBlanc, and they are short staffed. I would like to see something systematic that starts at the top with a flow chart and guidance setting that information for the parents. I agree with you, but it has to be guided. KM - Incorporate the student voice in SEAC meetings.

Audience Member - I have a concern, they tried to dictate to me that the committee had decided, and kind of in a way stated I had no power. Is there a person in the school that a parent can go to when the IEP is not in compliance?

LH - Yes there is, the state is updating its process. It's on the state website.

Audience Member - How can I be informed of this?

JR - Well, it was rigged. The state has been throwing out some disputes and communicating with the districts instead of the parents. I would recommend we examining what do we do when the school is not in compliance? Because the parents are in control and have a voice. I think this is something we need to address, what do you do as a parent if you feel it's not working? We should do a better job at letting the parents know to contact LeBlanc.

Audience Member - More inclusion activities where the students can participate and interact with other peers. I throw out the ideas of clubs, but at BUP there are kids who volunteer and other students are getting involved.

Audience Member - Incorporate mentorship. Students in reg. ed selected to work with our kids. RL - Educate

teachers so that they know what resources are available because once you get out of school you are not connected to anything and ensuring that those resources get in those teachers hands are needed. What does distribution of resources for transition look like at each school? I do think that should be important.

LH- Phillips is on the district parent advisory and we are fortunate to have her on our team. So these are points of access to share ideas and get what we discuss out. The superintendent is pushing for each school to have parent advisory at each level and adding SPED parents will help everyone to understand. Audience Member - Back to that, my daughter had a mentor, but they were unofficial. JR - Every school has such different things. I think that is where our LeBlanc staff can come in handy. Our district has a budget, but the community will probably donate, for example carts.

Audience Member - There was no interaction with the inclusion population when they used the carts, and the teacher was like the students can't miss instruction time.

AK - Why is it so hard to add another club day?

JR- We can do a fundraiser. Primary is different, the transition from primary to middle is difficult. We need to create a system where the gen ed students can help with the transitions. We need a fundraiser, we can sell chocolate, but our parents, how often do our parents come up? I went to two meetings and nothing involving my son came up. That's why I think it should be systematic. I do think all kids need an opportunity. I'm suggesting we set the tone. What are we going to do with these carts? We can come up with a name. Also, siblings face challenges that some reg. Ed students don't. Maybe we can have them to come talk and share. JR - Is it potential for one of the club days to involve the cart?

Audience Member - Or just have a day where the reg ed student can pair up with our kids and do certain activities.

JR - How do we encourage this participation? Incorporate it through teachers, give gift cards, teachers get so many parents so come to a meeting you get a gift card.

Audience Member - Washington Post Live Webinar discussed disability rights and they compared issues to Civil Rights. I feel it would help if we change the narrative of how important SPED is. Gen ed is pulling policies from SPED to develop their policies. If we led with the narrative that you wouldn't be here if it wasn't for SPED we can change the narrative. I have a child who transferred from EBR, the issue was at the district level. The reason I'm struggling is because of lack of resources at the school level. It can't fall on teachers. We need support at the school level. Teacher shortage - empower high schoolers to come into education as a career. Several things are happening at the national level and we can take that as a district level. Audience Member - Need for more parental involvement. The biggest issue will be knowledge for parents. I'm transitioning from EBR and I did not know where to go. Online is a nightmare for finding information for what to do. My son is transferring from an ABA school and as a parent I need to know what services the school can provide. I don't think there is a process for information to find out what's going on and what to do. Overall, we are failing parents about the information available.

JR - Lynn can't suggest because the district will be reliable.

ND - This is why I suggested the parent liaison because yall can't say it, but we can.

JR - I think we need to do a Facebook Group.

AM - Yes, that's what I'm speaking of, not so much promotion of the business. What I'm saying is can I have ABA in the school? I want to know before school starts what can be provided.

ND - This is what we've been talking about, bridging the gap. We will always be the best advocate for our students. We need to bridge the gap about what services are needed.

JR - Maybe we need pupil appraisal in here to help us tell us what our child needs. The pupil appraisal evaluation is a key component of the process. I meet parents every day of the week, Act 817, my kid was one of the kids to get ABA in school. I do think we need a member from pupil appraisal.

ND - Or maybe a webinar.

Audience Member - Waiver process - If I had not heard about it from other parents, I wouldn't have known. If you don't have a place to start, start at the school.

KM - Think of ways to collaborate between SEAC and schools to foster education and advocate for policies.

Strengthen partnership with agencies, workshops for parents, and advocacy.

LH - Trainings, webinars, communication, not only parents but administration. If you're in Ascension Parish, you can expect for this to happen at all schools. My team can immediately help to make these things happen. We have a new team in August, but one step at a time. Final comments?

JR - Subcommittees to meet in between the meetings. SEAC members give bios of what they do.

LH close agenda/Item

### 3. Parent Agenda Items:

Paraprofessional Pay - Updates from June 25, 2024 Board Meeting

- Superintendent approved increase of paraprofessional pay
- Teachers will receive the state's one time pay
- Approved \$1,000 stipend - RBT Training for Paraprofessionals
- Looking at increase in pay for paras supporting students with medical needs
- Teachers received ongoing raises.
- The state department will also give out a \$2000 pay

LH - I have been communicating with the LSU SPED department and next year is a large graduating class. LH - I'm super excited to receive recommendations and take it to the board.

LH review SPED Proposed Legislation...

LH - There are a lot, too many to list here but we will be working on this the summer. We will also have a training with administration on FAPE.

JR - Can you add mandatory reporting to discuss with administration because there is a new law.

LH - Upcoming SEAC Meeting is August 21, 2024 at Noon.

Motion to close out meeting

Nathalia Dickson - motion to close meeting

Adrienne Kelly - seconded

Motion passes - meeting adjourned