

St. James Parish Public Schools

St. James Special Education Advisory Council Agenda
Meeting #1
Wednesday, October 23, 2024
5:30 PM

→ Call to Order- Chair at 5:30 PM

→ Prayer-Kim

→ Pledge- Ashley

ROLL CALL by Kasi Graver – Appointed Recorder

SEAC MEMBER	TITLE	PRESENT	ABSENT
Senecca Boudreaux	Council Chairperson	X	
Kim Notto-Lockley	SPED Compliance Supervisor	X	
Keion Laurent	Parent	X	
Ashley Harrell	Parent	X	
Jennifer Bye	Parent		X
LaWanda Carr	Parent	X	
Jai Johnson	Student	X	
Kimya Babers	Representative from Opportunity Now	X	

(Meeting Quorum met)

→ Welcome- Chair

Chair - shared public comment procedures and SEAC Purpose & Process

OLD Business - None

None

NEW Business –

3. District Agenda Items

- a. SEAC members for 2024-2025 - Introductions
 - parent members shared their names, shared the school the student attends, and shared their disability

- the student representative shared that he was a student and his mother was able to share that he attends Lutchter High School, plays in the band, is a senior, and a little about his disability
- Chair introduced herself and gave some background on her experience in special education
- Supervisor of Compliance introduced herself and gave some background on her experiences in Special Education
- outside agency representative introduced herself, and gave information about services offered in the district

b. Quarterly Newsletter

- copies of the newsletter were handed out at the meeting

Chair shared the following:

- robo call was made today to send quarterly newsletter to parents
- the layout of the newsletter and the type of information available within the newsletter
- approximately 598 students with disabilities within the district according to October 2024 Child Count
- discussed trainings/ supports that will be offered to the teachers, along with partnerships with LASARD, the newly added special education instructional coach
- shared the direction special education is going in
- shared important dates for the dissemination of IEP progress reports and report cards

c. Special Education Information on Districts Website

Chair shared the following:

- how to access the district website
- the new district website and how to navigate to information specifically regarding special education
- links that are available on the special education page including the child search policy
- the child search policy was discussed and reviewed
- gifted and talented information was reviewed
- complaint resolution was discussed
- the rights booklet was reviewed briefly
- the cameras in special education classrooms policy were reviewed
- information specific to the special education advisory council was shared from the district website, including how to apply for the council and how to submit questions

d. District Assessments Guidelines as per Louisiana Bulletin 1706 guidance and District Common Assessments

Chair shared the following:

- copies of the district common assessments were handed out at the meeting

- the district has identified common assessments that are being given at each grade level at each school within the district; these are considered major grades and carry more weight in the grade
- important for teachers to have valid data, common assessments provide this
- the accommodations that are allowed on district assessments were discussed and reviewed; these are accommodation that will not impact the validity of the assessment
- it was shared that not all accommodations on the IEP will be given on district assessments/ state assessments; only those that do not impact validity of the district assessments
- district assessments cannot be modified in anyway
- modified grading formula/rubric was discussed due to district assessments not being modified, this is not for every student, only for students who have modified assessments on their IEP.

e. Alternate/Modified Curriculum Criteria

Chair shared the following:

- copies of the modified curriculum guidelines and criteria was handed out
- LEAP Connect students can qualify for alternate/ modified curriculum
- ENCORE is the alternate/ modified curriculum used in our district
- This curriculum is aligned to the modified state standards
- If you are taking the regular LEAP test then you must be exposed/ taught to regular standards
- ENCORE is for the students with significant cognitive disabilities
- Past forms of assessments provided by the state were discussed, the deletion of the LAA2 test was discussed
- The state says only 1% of your total student population should be participating in alternate assessment; these should be students with significant cognitive impairments
- Our district and state is over the 1% cap, which has implications for the state and district in terms of funding
- When a child qualifies for alternate assessment, their graduation pathway is impacted
- Alternate assessment jumpstart diploma was discussed
- April Dunn Act was briefly discussed, as different options to help students with disabilities graduate
- Alternate assessment participation must be renewed/ revisited annually

f. Special Olympics Dates and Other Information – District

Chair shared the following:

- Last year was the second year we had Special Olympics and it was successful.

- Special Olympics is for students with the most significant disabilities.
- Special Olympics 2025 Date: March 19, 2025 at St James High School

4. Council Agenda Items

a. Educational needs for Children with Autism – Keion L.

- more information should be shared with parents on providing services for students with Autism regarding how to start the process of providing/ seeking services - Keion
- Head Start and Universal Preschool were discussed; the importance of knowing developmental milestones was discussed and having these conversations with the pediatrician well before the student is school-age; 0-3 refer to early step, ages 3+ refer to Child Find Office or SBLC at schools -Chair
- would like to see activities for Autistic students being set up so they can participate while their sensory needs are being met- Ashley
- The lack of a pediatrician within our parish was discussed; many students are seeing family doctors who are not specialists in developmental milestones - Ashley

b. Sports/activities for SPED children – Ashley H.

- our parish has lots of sports and the special education students are left out due to sensory issues or physical ability; she would like to see more options for students with disabilities; she would like the students to practice for special olympics- Ashley
- Special Olympics Louisiana is all about inclusion and inclusive sports in communities; the students practice for special olympics at APE time - Chair
- we will reach out to invite new recreation director for St James Parish to a meeting - Chair
- grants that we received last year for inclusive sports equipment was shared - Chair

5. Public Comments- Chair reviewed attendance log to identify any requests to make public comments on agenda items

- There were no public comment requests

6. Closing Remarks – (Council Members)

- Keion- the Autism information is being shared, and well-presented tonight
- Kimya- everything went well, and she appreciates all of the information shared tonight

- Kim- was pleased to see the increased number of parents and community members tonight compared to previous meetings
- Chair- grateful that we have a full council this year of 8 people. You can reach out to to let them know how laws are impacting our students
- Ashley- no comment
- Jai- no comment
- LaWanda-discussed importance of being your child's and other children's advocate to help them to become prosperous members of the community and succeed

Chair announced that next meeting is in January and asked for motion to adjourn meeting

Motion for adjournment – Keion L.

Motion 2nd by -Kimya B.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM