

**Approved December 11,2024**

**SEAC Meeting Minutes - October 23, 2024**  
**Ascension Special Education Advisory Council**

October 23, 2024

5:00 p.m.

In-Person Meeting (with virtual option)

ITTC Building - Central Middle School

**Call to Order**

(5:00 pm) by Director Adrina Million, Co-chair

Explained Robert's Rules of Order. Explained procedures for public comment, SEAC origin, and updates for Ascension Parish, purposes and responsibilities.

**Roll Call - (12:03 pm)**

Quorum Met:

1. Kheri Monks - Present
2. Natalia Dickson - Present
3. Adrienne Kelly - Not Present
4. Raven LaBiche - Not Present
5. Jacqueline Page - Not Present
6. Marvin Reed - Present
7. Jasmine Gray - Present
8. Shelton Williams - Present
9. Lorene Phillips - Present
10. Jeremy Tarver - Present
11. Lynette White-Pierce - Present
12. Melissa Rollins - Present

Chairpersons - Dr. Adrina Million and Jodi Rollins (both present)

**Old Business**

**1.a. Approval of minutes from August 21, 2024 SEAC meeting - (Action Required)**

M. Reed - correction needed. My son is on the bowling team for EAHS, another student is the baseball manager. (Minute-taker agreed to correct the mistake and reflect the change on the August 21st minutes)

Motion to approve minutes - M. Reed

Second - L. Phillips

Approved

**1.b. Recommendations to Superintendent from SEAC Members**

- Parent Training Sessions: A.Million - We will talk more about this. There is a LASARD parent training in December.

- Volunteer Opportunities for General Education:

A.Million - Our schools are encouraged, this was brought up to all principals. Principals were challenged to come up with ways to incorporate. The criteria is that there is no loss of instruction.

No action needed.

## **New Business**

### **2. District Agenda Items**

#### **2.a. Brief Introduction from Director of Special Education**

Dr. Adrina Million (A.M.) - I have been in education for 28 years. I started as a classroom teacher for 12 years, then was a Special Needs Counselor for 8 years, a school social worker, a Sped Coordinator, Assistant Principal at Donaldsonville Primary School, Sped Supervisor, and now Director of Special Education. I am a product of this district, as well as my husband, and my son. The same expectations I have for my child are the same that I have for all students. I am all about children and will support any child's goal. I believe in things being decent and in order.

#### **2.b. Topics for Special Education Web Series**

A.M. - We would like to put information out to parents, information that matters. There are cards for you to record ideas for potential topics for upcoming series. (A.M. showed examples but explained she doesn't want to limit to these examples) Please add your ideas.

M.Reed - Will we utilize parents for these?

A.M. - Yes, utilize all resources. We also may be able to combine some.

#### **2.c. LASARD Project**

A.M. - We have a contract with LASARD through LSU. Some may remember we had transition training 2 years ago at Central Middle School. We can do it again at the December 11th SEAC mtg. Should last between 20-30 minutes. We can discuss as a board, and can use some of the same topics. I will send information to all. Any public comment?

#### **2.d. Coffee Chat**

A.M. - East side of Ascension: Dutchtown Middle School runs a coffee business that has been successful. We would like to have an event for parents to come. Would be an opportunity for parents to see what they do. We will also do this at the Wag Center with Donaldsonville High students. Would love for our parents and students to be engaged in this way. Dates coming soon.

#### **2.e. 2024-2025 Special Education Resource Fair**

A.M. - Had a great Inaugural Fair, it was a little cramped at EA. We had over 65 tables/agencies. We like the central location and we are considering Gonzales Civic Center for this year's location. It is a larger venue, parking. Will need collaborative partnership again.

### 3. Parent Agenda Items

#### 3.a. Special Needs Parent Group

A.M. - The Committee wanted Sub-Committees so that everyone wasn't working on the same things. So, can we determine areas? You are not limited to just one. Emily Lambert (coordinator) will record. You can think about it. Do we have volunteers to be chair?

N. Dickson - This will be the parent liaison group. I will be the chair.

(Other members who want to join: L. Phillips, K. Monks, L. Pierce)

[Todd Wiedmer](#) (audience member, parent) - What is this?

A.M. - Right now this is for board members only, we will have opportunities for others to join. I apologize if you weren't at the last meeting. (A.M. recapped the 3 focus areas)

M. Rollins - What is the shape of this? Will it be an action group?

A.M. - That is what the committees will decide. These were the focus areas.

J. Rollins (co-chair) - This is to ensure that action will be taken on these focus areas.

J. Tarver - Can you clarify?

A.M. - That's up to the board.

M. Rollins - This gives people more opportunities.

M. Reed - In essence, each subcommittee will report back to the board.

A.M. - I envision we take action this year. If we have committees working on things, you meet, and you bring it to the board at the next meeting. We just don't want to wait all year to take action.

N. Dickson - I'm thinking loose definition, then groups gather to fine-tune ideas and come up with suggestions and actions to bring to the board.

J. Rollins - Who is the point of contact? How can we advertise? We would have to consult with committees, who would subcommittee contact? If we wait for every SEAC meeting, who do we contact between meetings?

A.M. (to J. Rollins) - You and I would be contacts. Information will be shared through email threads. I plan on being part of every committee so include me.

J. Rollins - Will there be someone from LeBlanc in every group?

A.M. - yes. What about our next subcommittee, Parent Training Sessions?

J. Rollins (J.R.) - I volunteer to be chairperson. Better be ready to work.

M. Rollins - What do you envision?

J.R. - The IEP process is complex. Lot of parents don't feel comfortable asking questions. I see a series of training about the bigger picture. What is ESY? Things like that can dramatically impact a child's future. They don't give us a book, they want real training. Families Helping Families puts great webinars, but ours will be more like... 'What is required and why?' It could possibly be a permanent committee for SEAC. I went through a process within sped law, I know the process. Nothing stuffy, a lot of things the rights booklets don't say.

A.M. - We want it to be for other parents as well who may not go to SEAC meetings. Maybe we also put these on the website, another way to reach parents.

J.R. - Good opportunity to get feedback from parents. I met the mother who started the camera law. I got to see how to advocate. I helped with the funding piece, it only takes one parent. The surveys the district sends out - most of us miss them. We are juggling therapies, dynamics, etc. This will give us opportunities to give feedback to the district.

N. Dickson - Subcommittees can communicate with each other, give each other feedback.

J.R. - We have a lot of great people. We have Early Childhood Centers, not just one big Resource Fair, we have to catch children early.

A.M. - We need a chairperson for Volunteer Opportunities for General Ed Students.

K. Monks and J.R. will be co-chairs. Phillips will also serve.

A.M. - Do we need to open up to other parents?

J. Gray - I think we need to meet first.

M. Reed - What is the plan to reach out and bring more parents? My experience is that parents feel isolated. Do we plan to reach out to those parents?

A.M. - Are you asking about overall, or what we are working on right now? When we start broadcasting and adding things to websites, it will increase visibility. To me, it will be a big part of Parent Training and Parent Group.

N.Dickson - The chairs for the parent group will get info out.

K. Monks - Reach out to PTOs too. Another way to get word out.

J.R. - I like the idea of social outlets. That might encourage more.

M. Rollins - That will help. More motivating, I think this room could double.

J. Gray - Good for us to get together.

N.Dickson - Sped Newsletter too

L. Pierce - How soon? I sense urgency.

A.M. - As a board, we all agree we want to get the ball rolling. Is it fair for each chair to decide how to communicate with each other?

J.R. - All of this involves the community, and would have to go through the district. How do we find out what is needed?

A.M. - We have a PR Department, would need to meet criteria, etc.

Dr. Edith Walker (superintendent) - If you want communication to the district that we agree upon, we can. It's not about the mechanism, we have to agree and I can help support. It would need to be a school district agenda rather than personal group agenda, I do not and will not communicate to the district personnel group agendas.

J.R. - Can we set a timeline?

A.M. - We want action, yes.

J. Gray - Before the next meeting?

A.M. - yes

M. Rollins - synchronizing is good. Can it be more informal, maybe social media? The best ideas come from back and forth conversations.

A.M. - I will not be a part of any social media.

K. Monks - We use Remind.

J. Tarver - I have a lot of apps that I don't want to be on. Keep it as basic as possible. I like phone calls, email or text.

N. Dickson - Email as standard?

L. Pierce - Stuff can get lost in translation. Concerned about emails getting buried.

M. Reed - Motion for chairperson to decide type of communication

L. Phillips - I 2nd the motion.

A.M. - Closing. Next meeting is Dec. 11 at noon.

M. Rollins - Is there a reason for the switching of meeting times between noon and 5:00pm?

A.M. - A previous SEAC board decided to alternate times to accommodate parent schedules.

M. Rollins - Can we look at data for that? Attendees at different times?

A.M. - That's a board decision. The board can look at it for next year since this year's schedule has been published. Motion to adjourn?

N. Dickson - 1st

K. Monks - 2nd

Adjourn - 5:59pm