

*St. James Parish Public Schools*

**St. James Special Education Advisory Council Agenda**  
**Meeting #2**  
**Wednesday, January 29, 2025**  
**5:30 PM**

- Call to Order- Chair at 5:30 PM
- Prayer-LaWanda
- Pledge- Ashley

**ROLL CALL by Daysha Johnson (subbing for Kasi Graver) – Appointed Recorder**

<b>SEAC MEMBER</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
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 – asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add one item and remove two items:

- Approve minutes of the SEAC meeting of October 23, 2024 (add)
- Item 1 under Old Business (remove due to presenter's inability to attend)
- First bulleted item under New Business (remove due to Compliance Supervisor being out sick)

Motion by Ashley Harrell

Second by LaWanda Carr

Motion Passed (all was in favor; no objections)

Chair – asked for approval of the minutes of the SEAC Meeting of October 23, 2024

Public Comments - None

Motion by Jennifer Bye

Second by Ashley Harrell

Motion Passed (all was in favor; no objection)

Chair - shared public comment procedures and SEAC Purpose & Process

***OLD Business -***

- Disseminated copies of Special Education Quarterly Newsletter for December 2024 – Chair and captured the many highlights and stories - Chair
- Reminder was given about the date of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Special Olympics was given and an invitation was extended to everyone – Chair

***NEW Business –***

3. District Agenda Items

- Kimya Babers gave a presentation on Mentoring and Engagement Services provided by Opportunity Now in the district. Kimya explained that students with behavior and social difficulties, and those academically struggling can be referred to them for services by school leaders of both high schools. Crystal Morgan was named as the Engagement Specialist. Kimya shared that they discuss various topics with students, provide individual and group sessions, offer pre-employment services, teach work readiness and an opportunity to develop work experience to students ages 16-22.
- Ashley Harrell asked about helping older students (22+) with independence.
- Kimya advised that Opportunity Now would refer those students to adult services offered by Louisiana Rehabilitation. It was shared that there are various resources to assist with funding for students and older students (22+).
- Chair explained that there is a Transition Fair for students 16+ that we host every year in the district in which different agencies are invited, along with parents.
- Kimya shared her contact information with everyone.

4. Council Agenda Items

What is Dyslexia and when are students supposed to get tested for it? – Keion L.

- Chair – provided copies of information from Louisiana Bulletin 1903 about LEA requirements, inclusive of screening requirements. A Dyslexia FAQ was shared, which included information for families wanting to know how to refer their child for dyslexia screening, etc. Chair also explained that district does not diagnose students with dyslexia, but rather just screen for characteristics of dyslexia. Chair made it clear that not all students with characteristics of dyslexia will qualify for special education. Some may just need interventions and some may qualify for 504 accommodations.
- Keion asked about the guidelines for children in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade if they don't do well on the screener.

- Chair – explained guidelines and gave insight on DIBELS testing and how the district looks at results. Chair also talked about IEP team’s ability to convene when students with disabilities don’t meet the criteria for promotion in the Districts Pupil Progression Plan. Chair shared resources for parents of students with disabilities scoring well below benchmark on DIBELS such as free tutoring and books that can be mailed directly to the home. Chair shared that schools should have notified them about those free resources, and if not, to please contact the schools.

5. Public Comments - NONE

6. Closing Remarks – (Council Members)

- All members of the council shared that they enjoyed the meeting and that it was very informative.
- Chair announced that next meeting is April 30th and asked for motion to adjourn meeting.

**Motion for adjournment – Kimya**

**Motion 2nd by - Jennifer**

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM