

Approved SEAC Meeting Minutes - February 19, 2025
Ascension Special Education Advisory Council

February 19, 2025

5:00PM

In-Person Meeting (with virtual option)

Central Middle School - ITTC

Call to Order

(5:00pm) by Director Adrina Million

Roll Call - (5:02 pm)

Quorum Met:

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

Chairpersons -

Dr. Adrina Million - Present

Jodi Rollins - Present

Dr. Million reviews Public Comment Procedures and SEAC Purpose and Process.

Dr. Grimes review Robert's Rules of Order

Public comment card submitted before the meeting

Old Business

1.a. Approval of minutes from December 11, 2024 SEAC meeting

Motion to approve minutes - M. Reed

Second - A. Kelly

Approved

New Business

2a. Presentation from Growth Services (Ms. Cormanda Grace & Ms. Courtney Altman)

Topic: Transition Services in High School

Public comment card submitted before the meeting

Purpose is to provide feedback to the superintendent
Cormanda Grace- Introduced Growth Services, High school to post-secondary services.
General information includes the following: 16 years of age or older, Growth Services creates transition plans for post-secondary readiness. Applications were sent out at the beginning of the year. Those interested in these services completed the application and sent it directly to Growth Services (not the school).

Growth Services: Services of Louisiana- Courtney Altman and Ethan Altman. (Program Director/ Student Services Coach)

Mission Statement: Advocate for mental health and social emotional well-being, focusing on the whole-person centered, offering wraparound services, through evidence-based programming.

Additionally, wraparound services are offered.

G.R.O.W.T.H. Services Website

www.growthla.org

G.R.O.W.T.H. Services is Pre-employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) are coordinated activities for a student with a disability/exceptionality designed within an outcome-oriented process that promotes movement from school to post-secondary activities.

Short Version: Designed to help students with disabilities gain the skills necessary to get a job and keep a job, explore opportunities for career interest, create a plan after graduation, teach them how to advocate for themselves.

Currently:

*There are 35 students across 8 schools.

*ages 16-22 years of age, IEP enrolled in an educational institution.

What does it include? Job exploration counseling, counseling on opportunities for enrollment (FAFSA, College Application, Career Opportunities), workplace readiness, instruction in self-advocacy, work-based learning experiences that include job shadowing, and short-term employment. Work-based learning experiences that include job shadowing 3 per 2 years, 3-5 hours working with an organization shadowing employees, employer site visits 3 per 2 years touring worksite and gathering information about the job positions, and short-term employment 240 hours for up to 3 different worksites.

Contact Courtney Altman (225) 681-3597 for more information.

2.b. Updated information on 2024-2025 Special Education Resource Fair (Mrs. Delatte & Mrs. Recile)

Mrs. Delatte and Mrs. Recile provides information and updates on the Promoting Access and Connections Fair.

- The 2nd Annual Promoting Access and Connections Fair will be held Thursday, March 13th from 5:00-7:00 pm at the Gonzales Civic Center.
- 57 Confirmed Agencies
- Kid-Friendly Activities (Face Painting, Characters, Games)

- Food (Sheriffs Department - Jambalaya, Rouses- Water, Coca-Cola-Drinks, Bouncing Brothers - Cotton Candy & Popcorn, Charlie D's - Lemonade, Impala & Dickson Law - Pizza)
- Door Prizes

Mrs. Delatte shares with the members and the audience to notify her or Mrs. Recile if they know of anyone who wants to donate door prizes for the Fair.

Dr. Million informs everyone that this SEAC meeting is the last meeting before the Fair and to please inform any parents not present.

Dr. Million checks for comment cards - no comments made

2.c. Special Education Communication from District- Special Colored Paper

Posed question:

JR- Suggest LSSC have a designated colored paper. Information from LSSC or information pertinent to special education or special needs students would utilize this specific paper so that it would stand out.

AK- no objection to it. My biggest thing is that everything does not come home. This would make it easier to locate. I don't know if we can get things sent electronically.

JR- Not everyone has access to electronics. This would give notification that the information is from LSSC.

MR- Would it make it too difficult to read if colored paper were used? The colored paper would need to be chosen strategically so that it is legible.

JR- Yes, we would make sure it's something that can be read.

JT- I think this is a great idea. I think it all comes down to the teacher and the parent. I have a really good relationship with my daughter's teacher. She sends a text that indicates that something is in the folder and needs to be signed.

JR- I agree with you. Big on Written documentation. Put in the IEP on how you want things to be communicated.

LWP- I agree

AM- all of these recommendations to Dr. Walker

MR-motion to recommend

ND-2nd the motion

2.d. Special Education Communication - Flow Chart Identifying Special Education Staff District/School Levels (Parent/Guardian Resource)

Dr. Million shares with the committee a Proposed Special Education Support System Flow Chart. The flow of the chart is as follows:

Special Ed Teacher → Lead Teacher → School Administrator → Special Ed Coordinator → Supervisors/Director

AM - We also created a directory of who to contact.

JR - Where is that going to be?

AM - Our LSSC website and we will send it to the parents.

JR - We use to have a staff directory, do we know why that stopped?

AM - No, I can not tell you why that stopped. Carli, does anyone know why?

Carli Francois shares that the directory was no longer in use due to security and confidentiality purposes.

MR - Is there a way we can send this home with students who are new to the program?

AM - yes, that is a good idea.

Audience member - how about at the beginning of the year?

AM - Yes, this will be included in the binders that are received by students entering the program as well. In our motion to Dr. Walker, we can definitely request that we list the flow chart on our LSSC website.

CF - For security reasons, staff information is not listed on websites. You would have to go to powerschool to access your school information. I don't see any problem with the flow chart being posted on the website.

JR - With the flowchart, are y'all saying that this is the way a parent should address an issue? Where should a parent start when there is an issue?

AM - Sped teacher or lead teacher and or possibly administration. It depends on the issue and the concern.

LWP - Can SEAC members make recommendations to change the flow of support chart?

AM - Yes, I think that's what the members are discussing, right?

MR - I Motion to table this discussion to the next meeting and create a flowchart to send to us.
Motion 2nd by A. Kelly

2e. School Calendars-Special Education Events, Training, etc.

- A. Million made the recommendation of SPED, identifying events on the calendar to be discussed and held at the next SEAC Meeting.

Motion- M. Reed

2nd- N. Dickson

Vote- 8/8 Motion passed

2f. School Social Media-Special Education Events

Motion- N. Dickson

2nd- S. Williams

Vote- 8/8 Motion passed

2g. Vacancy- Special Education Advisory Council

AM- We are waiting on responses from LDOE on how we need to proceed.

ND- How many applications were left from last time?

3. Parent Agenda Item

Mr. J. Tarver Concerns

-Paraprofessionals: Hiring/Screening Process

-Teachers/Therapists/School Nurse - Inconsistent Personnel

JT - The biggest concerns are the paraprofessionals. Do they have the skills necessary to perform the job? Are they hot-tempered? They need to be vetted much better. I'm not sure how that would look. There are numerous instances where students aren't being changed. Further states that kids are being mistreated. Teachers/therapists/school nurse- Can teachers be consistent throughout the student's schooling? The purpose of this is that they know the student and what sets them off.

AM- What motion/recommendation can you make?

JT- Can parents be involved in the hiring process? There are issues inside the system that need to be fixed.

LWP - To my understanding, IDEA allows for the credentials of each professional to be listed on the IEP. Can this be implemented for paraprofessionals? Love to explore ways to communicate and explore with the paraprofessional

KM- Policy regarding communication with paraprofessionals to ensure consistency.

JR- Dr. Walker cares about the quality of employees. Relationships should start at the administrative level. Tell your principal your concerns. Meet with the school your child is transitioning to.

JT - Am I supposed to meet with every new person that comes to the school? Am I to brief everyone about what my daughter's triggers are?

AM- We try to have as much consistency as possible; some things we can't control are people leaving the profession or the district. As far as the quality, principals are hiring the best that they can find. Another thing is, if you're a parent with a concern, please let us know.

M. Reed- motioned proposing finding ways for paraprofessionals to communicate with parents-
1. Paras to attend IEP meetings and speak.

JR- Are you talking about communication to parents or attending IEP meetings?

ND- This is two motions.

1st motion- Paras to attend IEP meetings

Motion- M. Reed

2nd by- N.Dickson

Votes 6/8 motion passed

2nd motion- Explore options for paras to communicate with parents

Motion- M. Reed
2nd by - J. Tarver
Votes 4/8

AM- Explore policies and make these recommendations to the superintendent.

Committee Updates for Focus Areas for 2024-25

1. Special Needs Parent Group
2. Parent Training Sessions
3. Volunteer Opportunities for General Education Students

AK- From talking to the high schools, some programs are taking place but may not be communicated to parents. From the administration that I have talked to, they are open to ideas that parents are interested in.

ND- Special Needs Parent Group- does LSSC need to have a representative present?

AM- As I recall, it was noted that myself or JR would be invited and the meeting would take place at your choice of location.

ND- Care Package will be received any time a new student receives services. The package will include the flow chart, directory list, and information on the students' service providers.

AM- Whenever you do meet, it would be great to invite us to the meeting so that we can share this information at the school level.

ND- When will we determine who the parent liaison will be from each school?

AM- As stated before, just send an invite so that one can attend and bring to the board to put on the agenda.

2. Parent Training Sessions:

JR shares with the committee that she would like to be a part of the parent training sessions.

AM this is a topic that we can meet on and discuss.

ND- Does everyone have access to the subcommittee folders she created? If you have any ideas, you can add to the folder.

AM- Thank you, Mrs. Dickson, for setting this up. Thanks for the updates. I encourage subgroups to meet.

AM - Upcoming Events:

Promoting Access and Connections Fair - Thursday, March 13, 2025
Don Robert Trail Ride, in Partnership with the APSO- April 2025
Next SEAC Meeting- Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.

AM- LDOE is doing a parental involvement survey for 22 districts, and Ascension Parish is one of the districts. More information will be available in March.

Motion to adjourn meeting- J. Paige
2nd by J. Tarver