



**ESE ADVISORY GENERAL MEETING, October 18th, 2024, Plantation Middle School
MINUTES**

Call to order 6.23pm (No quorum yet)

Chair's report - Jacqui Luscombe

- Update from BCPS calendar committee: please complete emailed survey. School Board looking to add a day off the Hindu festival of Diwali in 2025/6. Board yet to decide make-up storm days for the current year
- Update on previous ESE motions
 1. Re our recommendation for a comprehensive review and analysis of shortfalls in the Focus SSS module for handling ESE case mgmt, and a plan of action to restore capabilities that were available in the old system (EDPlan) and for BCPS to disclose all issues of concern logged by staff: this motion was formally accepted into the record at a School Board meeting 10/17. Chair will now work with Board members to advance it. ESE Specialists struggling to keep on top of ESE case mgmt. Support is there but the software capability isn't.
 2. Re our recommendation that BCPS consider incorporating the Collaborative Solutions Model from Lives in the Balance as one of its behavior methodologies: this too was accepted into the School Board record on 10/17. The chair provided more info to Board members at the meeting. Meaningful Inclusion cttee chair Ellen Kay has also emailed info to Board members. The ESE dept has told the School Board it will look further into this with the Student Support dept and report back.
- Cellphone restrictions have impacted some families of students w/Diabetes (and poss others) in the necessary management of their medical condition at school. North Area Advisory agreed a motion recommending the Board address this and lift the obstacles.

Subcommittee chairs reports:

- Ellen Kay, Meaningful Inclusion: meeting last week canceled due to storm closures. Topic for next meeting will be the co-teaching model and how BCPS is implementing the VE class model.
- Melissa Ramos, Autism: meeting canceled due to storm closures. Next: Glades Middle School Nov 7th BCPS's new curriculum supervisor for Autism, Brandon Dietrick, will present on Autism clusters.
- Bach Todaro, Down Syndrome: successful Step Up for Down Syndrome Walk at Markham Park. Sixth annual DS exceptional educator training tmrw in collaboration with Broward and Palm Beach ESE depts, to share learning strategies and instructional best practices with teachers

District report – Diane Eagan, Executive Director of ESE & team

- Virtual "Lunch with ESE": Stephanie Acosta Castro, ESE Compliance Dir, reported on the success of this parent outreach session providing resources for parents. Special Olympics guest speaker. 196 participants.
- Andrea Ciotti, ESE Director Specialized Instruction:
 - o 67 teachers registered for tmrw's exceptional educator day in collaboration with the DS committee
 - o Ten middle schools participating in a Special Olympic soccer skills day Dec 5; encourage your school to sign up if they haven't already

- Transition to Adulthood Planning series second Tues of each month & parent webinar series from Florida Diagnostic and Resource Learning Resource System (FDLRS); Free access to Special Ed Connection for parents; shared pix from 12th annual ESE team on DS walk
- Sabrina Sheib, ESE Curriculum Director: spoke about professional devt on offer for staff, including paras, online and in-person. Staff receive in-service points for doing it.
- Stephanie Acosta Castro, ESE Compliance Director:
 - listed dates of past training and support sessions for staff
 - Re low character count space in Focus for parent input section on IEP: a “continuation form” has been devpd that’s housed within the system to provide overflow space
 - progress reports can now be generated. Feedback from parent: this is a clunky solution; how about just expand the view? Castro agreed: “It’s not the gold star...this is an interim solution...”
 - Further to the CIO/Supt’s meeting with some ESE Specialists at last month’s Advisory meeting, the ESE and IT depts adjusted some functions in Focus to “align them more closely with the familiar processes used by ESE Specialists and families.” 110 items were updated prior to the rollout of Focus, plus 214 compliance triggers were built into Focus to assist ESE Specialists in completing tasks accurately, helping to double-check their work and prevent errors in finalizing documents. Currently 16 events are not yet integrated into Focus (ready by Dec) and 29 items require a workaround. These events and items are either produced separately during the IEP meeting or are available in the ESE Specialist E-box using DoE or BCPS forms. Work orders (defined as anything that is an addition, upgrade, permission or general question): 91, completed 91; incidents (defined as issues that are break/fix or troubleshooting) 137; resolved 133. This data is as of September 6.
- ESE Dept response to Advisory’s recommendation to the Supt and School Board to consider incorporating the Collaborative Solutions Model for supporting behavior: “The ESE dept will be initiating a collaborative review with Student Services and will be scheduling a call with the vendor.”
- The ESE Chair stated that it would be inaccurate to represent that there are just a few items left to fix in Focus and that by Dec it’ll be ‘job done’; a proper gap analysis is still needed. Focus is not providing what EDPlan did, plans were not made to ensure the new system could provide what’s needed, EDPlan’s operating company was falsely maligned, ESE Advisory still hasn’t had answers to questions and concerns & what’s needed goes beyond just putting more forms on Focus. Instructions to staff on how to generate progress reports span eight pages. Chair has heard nothing since discussing continuing Focus concerns with the Dep Supt and CIO in Oct. Some fixes are just “cobblestones, workarounds and Band Aids.” System does not have depth of functionality that EDPlan had. ESE Specialists no longer get alerts of dates and processes becoming due. If ESE Specialist leaves, new one doesn’t have overview of open processes; still nothing in writing despite several asks for written clarity re when a parent requests an interim IEP meeting but is told it has to be an annual – asked for this again. Making ESE Specialists copy and paste the old IEP into a new document is not a professional solution. Good to see support provided but it’s unsustainable. High staff turnover. Lack of consistency. Burnout. Also asked for ESE dept to bring more ESE news to ESE Advisory so we’re not finding out about important things from School Board agendas or hearing third-hand.

Quorum was confirmed.

Cellphone motion: The Chair proposed that ESE Advisory support North Area Advisory’s motion re cellphones, with additional wording marked in bold: “We move that BCPS automatically include a provision in all 504 plans (**and IEPs**) for students with Type 1 diabetes allowing the use of cellphones for direct communication between

parents and students (**for the purposes of managing their medical condition.**) This provision is essential for the timely management of blood sugar levels particularly in light of the cellphone policy changes that have limited parent and student communication. Given the life-threatening nature of Type 1 diabetes and current challenges in school nursing coverage and Diabetes management knowledge, this motion is necessary to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students with this condition.” Seconded by Nakisha Sucarichi. Passed unanimously.

Cameras in Classrooms:

- Stephanie Acosta Castro presented the draft of School Board Policy 4900 to govern a new BCPS-run cameras in ESE Classrooms program. The state-run pilot expired in June 2024. The Supt and School Board have agreed to ESE Advisory’s recommendation that BCPS should continue the program itself.
- Feedback was noted and enshrined in a formal motion proposed by Steve Moyer, seconded Ellen Kay, including amendments taken from the floor to include all suggestions in one motion. (see separate sheet, incorporated with these minutes).
- The ESE Chair and Steve Moyer attended the School Board workshop that discussed this policy yesterday to provide feedback; also noted that the ESE dept presentation to the Board had a section headlined “Experiences learned from statutory implementation” but parent experiences weren’t included.
- Parent asked for cameras also in playground. Discussed that this scheme is solely for ESE self-contained classrooms to replicate the state pilot program and schools do have cameras in common areas.
- Stacey Hoaglund, Autism Society Florida: Working on making Cameras in Classrooms a full time state requirement and every legislator spoken to so far has interest. Autism Society of Florida website and YouTube have stories justifying cameras. Initial resistance from teachers, but now many teachers embrace it. Q: can \$11m IDEA rollover funds be used? Chair reported that a School Board member had also asked this and been told that IDEA funds cannot be used for this purpose. Steve Moyer re cost: \$774k already spent over three years to implement this; cameras and servers already paid for.
- School Board has directed that District Advisory and Technology Advisory also review the draft policy

Open forum:

- Parent stated that she asked her school for an interim IEP meeting but was told it was being considered an interim “off the record” but treated as an annual and a new IEP created even though an annual was not due.
- Parent brought up that there is a pilot VE program in her school for 6th grade but not 7th and 8th grade. Asked why. Diane Eagan: “We have to start somewhere; because we were really trying to venture into something new we did venture into a pilot this year.” Pilot is in seven schools, for 3rd to 6th grade. Looking to eventually expand beyond this. Historically a lot of students who transition to secondary go into either an SVE (if on Access Points) or traditional gen ed classrooms (if on standards) but some in that second group need more support, so VE class is being piloted. “We didn’t get feedback from parents because we wanted to figure out how to do it first.” There were challenges to get around relating to staff certification.
- Pre-K Specialized teacher. School previously had three classes but this year only one teacher and one class. Started with 14 students; now at 23. “No one advocating for us, no one answering emails.” Safety and space issues. Staff also have to do home visits, IEPs, progress reports, state and county testing. “We’re drowning and I’m not the only one.” Sabrina Sheib, ESE Curriculum Director: Principals know they can request. “We talk to principals about numbers and those things all the time.” Ms Sheib will follow up.
- Parent re clusters: suggested restructuring to accommodate varying abilities/social emotional needs.

Rollover of unspent IDEA funds & Policy & Bylaws review postponed to next meeting, due to lack of time.

- Re rollover; Sabrina Sheib reported that there will now be monthly status checks to ensure funds are being allocated/spent. Said that as of Sept 30, “we are 100 per cent filled with our staff.”

Close. Next meeting: Nov 20th, 6.15pm Plantation Middle

ESE Advisory Council

Motion Form

Date of Motion: October 16, 2024

Whereas the Broward County School Board has submitted to the ESE Advisory Council a Draft Policy 4900 for comment and recommendations, the ESE Advisory Council submits the following suggestions to Policy 4900:

Strike the beginning and end of section I as below

~~I With the currently available 300 audio-visual cameras, The School Board of Broward County shall provide a video camera to a school with a self-contained classroom upon the written request of a parent of a student in the classroom on a first come first serve basis.~~

Add to the beginning of section IB:

~~Within 30 days After receipt of the request from a parent, a video camera' shall be operational in each self-contained classroom in which the parent's student is in regular attendance for the remainder of the school year, unless the parent withdraws his or her request in writing.~~

In section III D 1 A a Change 30 days to 90 days as below

III

~~D.Each school employee who is assigned to work with one or more students in the self-contained classroom.~~

1.A school shall:

~~a. Retain video recorded from a video camera placed pursuant to this section for 30 90 days after the date the video was recorded, after which the recording shall be deleted or otherwise made unretrievable; orb~~

Add to the end section I V A 1

~~1.A school or school district shall conceal the identity of any student who appears in a video recording but is not involved in the alleged incident documented by the video recording, which the school allows to be viewed under Rule V., by blurring the face of the uninvolved student(s). The faces of Staff are not the be concealed or blurred and audio shall not be modified or muted~~

Add and Delete from the end of Section V B 3 as shown in lines 3 and 4

~~V. Within 7 school days after receiving a request to view a video recording, a school or school district shall allow the following individuals to view a video recording made under this section:~~

~~A. A school or school district employee who is involved in an alleged incident that is documented by the video recording as part of the investigative process;~~

~~B. A parent of a student who is involved in an alleged incident that is documented by the video recording and has been reported to the school or school district subject to the following requirements;~~

~~1.Completion of the [Incident Request Form] within 5 calendar days of the date of the alleged incident, exclusive of school holidays, describing the alleged incident that is the subject of the request;~~

2. The District will review the the video to determine whether the alleged incident was captured on the video;

3. Parental review of the video of the incident will be limited to solely the incident and to a period of 30 minutes before and after the incident ~~If no incident was captured, no review shall occur.~~

4. The video record made available to the parent will become an Educational Record of the Student

In Section V F change 5 calendar days to 30 calendar days

F.

A person who requests to view a recording of an incident shall make himself or herself available for viewing the recording within ~~5~~ 30 calendar days, exclusive of school holidays days, after being notified by the school or school district that the person's request has been granted.

Added under amendment:

1. Site implementation manual requires review in collaboration with ESE Advisory (rewriting of parent letter, protocols/criteria for how reviews & viewings will be conducted, etc)
2. Letters to be sent before the start of the school year and at the start of each semester, informing parents of their right to request a camera. Also consider distributing at IEP meetings and with progress reports.
3. Needs to be specified in policy who will review video and provide training for them.
4. Why is the installation of cameras being put out to external contractors, incurring extra cost, instead of managed in-house?
5. All camera requests during the regular school year must be applied to the Extended School Year too (without parents having to make a separate request). Site manual needs to set ESY installation timeline.
6. Camera requests need to follow the student from classroom to classroom
7. Ensure attention to redaction of students' privates during diaper changes, toileting etc.

Proposed Steve Moyer with amendments agreed

Seconded Ellen Kay

Passed unanimously