

Albemarle Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)
Monthly Meeting - County Office Building, Room 320
Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2025, 6:30 pm

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance/Introductions:
 - a. SEAC Members
 - Matthew Fowler - Hollymead Elementary
 - Jessica Allen - Ivy Elementary
 - Caitlin Foley - Mountain View Elementary
 - Tammy Gouldsmith - Murray Elementary
 - Dee Curry - Scottsville Elementary
 - Jessica Willard - Stone-Robinson Elementary
 - Sam Pecoe - Burley Middle School
 - Kristie Wood - Community Lab School
 - Chris Seaman - Henley Middle School
 - Jenni Wolf - Henley Middle School
 - Libby Moore - Journey Middle School
 - Christine Garland - Lakeside Middle School
 - Nicole Group - Western Albemarle High School
 - Teller Stalfort - Ace Academy
 - Besty Soulsby - Community Representative
 - b. ACPS Administration and Staff
 - Dr. Chandra Hayes, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction
 - Dr. Daphne Kesier, Assistant Superintendent of School Community Engagement
 - Ashley Struzik, Director of Special Education
 - Leslie Glover, Assistant Director of Special Education
 - Valerie Parks, Coordinator of Special Education
 - c. Piedmont Regional Education Program
 - Stephanie Hicks, Parent Resource Center
 - Maureen Strazzullo, Parent Resource Center
3. Minutes from August meeting - approved
4. Introduction to SEAC - Jessica Allen and Chris Seaman (Co-Chairs)
 - Slide deck - will be posted on SEAC website
 - Future meeting dates:
 - <https://www.k12albemarle.org/our-departments/special-education/seac-schedule>
 - SEAC Family Survey - discussion of dates to launch and close
 - Timeline of future events:
 - December School Board meeting – annual report
 - ACPS Budget - draft in late fall, public discussion/comment in Jan/Feb, vote by School Board, then to Board of Supervisors
 - Annual special education plan – March

- Future meeting topics/issues:
 - UVA law clinic presentation on special education eligibility
 - Disproportionate discipline of special education students
 - Annual report – include both concerns and things that are going well
5. Overview of ACPS Special Education - Ashley Struzik, Director of Special Education
- Slide deck - will be posted on SEAC website
 - Learning communities:
 - Trailhead Learning Community (TLC)
 - Intensive Support Center (ISC)
 - Post High - 27 students
 - Special education positions/staffing
 - BCBA - Board Certified Behavior Analyst
 - Jessica asked about the BASE model (ABASE, BBASE, CBASE) - only school in VA to have this structure/label
 - CSA - Children's Service Act
 - School Psychologist vacancies - which ones?
 - How is need determined for each school/staffing? - SPED number of students against state guidance; families who reach out about ratios, or decision making > general guidance on State 24 to 1 for general; base 8-12 students per teacher
 - Success - we do speech pathologist at every school / but pre-k to 11 month is vacant
 - Total SPED TAs: Ashley to follow-up next meeting
 - Training-related questions:
 - What frequency of general education teachers take PD/training for special education students
 - Are we getting teachers who have been here for a while that are reaching out for updated training as more SPED students are spending more time with gen ed teachers?
 - Are we supporting general education teachers at division level? Ashley says yes, but we can do better
 - Statistics on amount of time special education students spend in general education setting vs. separate learning spaces?
6. SEAC Membership - still need representatives for the following schools:
- Red Hill ES
 - Greer ES
 - Crozet ES
 - Agnor Hurt ES
 - Walton MS
7. Piedmont Regional Educational Program (PREP) Parent Resource Center (PRC) - Stephanie Hicks and Maureen Strazzullo
- Very helpful website for resources and advocacy; free conferences and seminars
 - K through Post High support

- Newsletter: sign up sheet distributed (Dr. Keiser also offered to distribute newsletter from PREP)
 - Website: <https://piedmonteducation.org/parent-resource-center/>
 - On Facebook as well
 - All questions are welcome. All inquiries are confidential
8. Back-to-School Nights - spreadsheet if interested in attending another school to help
9. SEAC Family Survey - distribution and next steps
- 3rd year doing survey. Survey instrument online, with digital and hard copies of flyer w/QR code that direct to the survey page.
 - How do we get the flyer translated? Communication department has automated translation service; possible work with EL department to get things translated. Keep this on the agenda for future surveys
 - Survey dates: Monday, September 15th - Friday, September 26th. Approved.
10. Topics for Future Meetings
- Dr. Keiser - AI steering committee. After discussion, tentatively scheduled for February.
 - Ralph Bradley and School Security - follow up meeting in spring.
 - Training of general education and “specials” teachers (gym, art, etc.) for teaching special education students effectively. This would be a topic for Megan Wood.
11. New Business:
- Cellphone Committee (Betsey Soulsby): parent did have problem with IEP phone use as reward, and wasn’t handled appropriately. Next meeting on Thursday, 6-8pm.
 - Pass System (for when students leave classroom): Bathroom quantity is ~ 3; concerns about limited “pass time” for special education students.
12. Public comment (in person and by email at spedhelp@k12albemarle.org)
- Heidi Gilman Bennett (Family Council) email:

“On Thurs evening, there will be a planned discussion of high school capacity. I'm curious how the enrollment growth of students with disabilities factors in.

I know that building capacity is determined based on instructional uses, and special education classrooms must by necessity be physically larger. WAHS is struggling with the lack of space for serving the larger number of students with disabilities, for example.

Q - Is the expanded number of students with disabilities factored into enrollment projections & capacity calculations?

I *think* that the building capacity is calculated annually based on who's enrolled that year. But, I haven't seen anyone projecting this into future capacity estimates. I hate to see ACPS invest in buildings without adequate space for ALL kids.”
13. Adjournment at 8:29 pm