

Albemarle Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)
Monthly Meeting - County Office Building, Room 320
Tuesday, January 13, 2026, 6:30 pm

Agenda

1. Call to Order - 6:35 pm
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Attendance and Introductions
 - a. SEAC Members:
 - Dee Curry (Scottsville ES; Vice Chair)
 - Caitlin Foley (Mountain View ES)
 - Matt Fowler (Hollymeade ES)
 - Kate Gariepy (Albemarle HS)
 - Tracy Magee (Ivy ES)
 - Libby Moore (Journey MS)
 - Chris Seaman (Henley MS; Co-Chair)
 - Betsey Soulsby (Community Representative)
 - Teller Stalfort (Center 1)
 - Grace Steljes (Stony Point ES)
 - Jessica Willard (Stone-Robinson ES)
 - Kristie Wood (Community Lab)
 - Stephanie Hicks (Piedmont Regional Education Program)
 - Maureen Strazzullo (Piedmont Regional Education Program)
 - b. ACPS Administrators:
 - i. Dr. Daphne Keiser
 - ii. Leslie Glover (Deputy Director, Special Education)
4. Approval of Minutes of November 11 meeting (attached) - approved
5. Update from SEAC Leadership Team
 - a. Presentation to SB in December and follow-up items (if any)
 - Thanks to everyone who attended, or lend moral support if they couldn't
 - Really appreciate co-presenters - effective to have new faces
 - No questions from the Board, but some of the Board members (Dr. Acuff and Dr. Berlin) mentioned later in the Dec. 11 meeting that they were supportive of including a request for an additional learning specialist and behavioral specialist to coach both gen ed and sped teachers. Ms. Le also mentioned intersectionality in disproportionate discipline.
 - We will ask for written response from SB to SEAC annual report later in the school year, after budget season is over, regarding our requests
 - b. Budget update
 - i. From Maya Kumazawa presentation on 12/11
 - Our Local Composite index has decreased (from .6904 to .6429), which should result in a net increase of approx. \$10 million in state funding for 2026-2027

- Local government (Albemarle County) forecast for shared revenues - increase of 5.5%, approx. \$11.5 million
 - Also higher costs for teacher and staff pay increases (incl. Collective bargaining), health care insurance (district is self-insured), opening of new schools (principal, teachers, staff and supplies at Mountain View Upper Elementary and Center 2 / ACE Academy Lambs Lane
 - Draft collective bargaining includes paid planning time for licensed staff (teachers, specialists, some support personnel)
- ii. Budget priorities [survey](#) includes \$660k for special education (“additional learning specialist, behavioral specialist, and adaptive physical education teachers”) as an option. Still open! Other helpful options include math intervention, PD (instructional coaching), student services (including behavioral support)
- iii. Budget [timeline](#)
 - Feb. 12: Superintendent presents Draft Funding Request to the School Board
 - Feb. 19: Special Budget Work Session (Work Session #1)
 - Feb. 26: Public Hearing on School Budget and School Board Work Session (Work Session #2)
 - Mar. 5: Special Budget Work Session (Work Session #3) if needed
 - Mar. 12: School Board approves Funding Request
 - Mar. 16: School Board presents Funding Request to Board of Supervisors
 - Apr. 23: School Board adopts FY 27 budget
- c. Capital Improvement / Long Range Financial Planning Update ([PPT link](#))
 - i. Joint meeting b/w School Board and Board of Supervisors on Dec. 2
 - ii. Almost 60% of county CIP expenditures for 2026-2030 for public schools
 - iii. AAA Bond rating paramount (only 54 of 3000+ counties in US have this)
 - iv. SB asks to address overcrowding at all high schools, urban ring elementary schools, renovations to oldest buildings Top 5 new projects (and northern feeder pattern elementary school already funded):
 - Comprehensive HS (29 North): \$215mm + \$16mm + land costs if any
 - Stony Point improvements (\$20mm)
 - Albemarle HS improvements (\$25mm)
 - Western Albemarle HS improvements (\$23.2mm)
 - Preschool Center (\$53mm)
 - Some important stuff not in top 5, including elevator addition at Mountain View
 - v. SB got a lot of pushback from BOS about how to finance this w/in borrowing constraints to maintain AAA status (proposed 1% sales tax increase would help)

- vi. Refer to Parent Council substack post on this
- vii. Advocacy opportunity - tomorrow (Wed 1/14) night at 6 pm, public comment at BOS meeting
- d. SRO [update](#)
 - Updated MOU signed on 11/4/25 (but not publicly announced until after Thanksgiving)
 - Included language (part IV.D.3) we asked for: "ACPS shall provide training to SROs regarding the special needs of students with disabilities. The training should be specific to those students currently enrolled at the school.")
 - Also some language about SRO training requirements re mental health specific training, implicit bias training, and restorative justice techniques
 - Still pushing for high-quality training programs specific to SWD identified in our report
 - Also still pushing for greater transparency regarding SRO activity/ encounters (we asked for monthly reports on aggregate data to be made public in annual report)
- e. UVA Law Community Organization and Social Enterprise Clinic update
 - End of semester meeting on Nov. 26
 - Continuing work on disproportionate discipline for SWD. Areas of research in spring: (1) more granular data on discipline actions and outcomes (beyond 10+ day out of school suspensions), (2) survey regarding parent satisfaction in IEP process, (3) looking at best practices/policies from peer districts (e.g., Fauquier county) - ombuds, parent observations to ensure IEP/504 is being followed, specific policies regarding severity of misconduct and how to address
 - Possible penalties - federal (enforcement action at OCR, financial withholding, refer to DOJ) and state (withhold all federal and state funding or use funding to provide sped services directly or by contract)
- f. State Level Updates
 - i. Change in gubernatorial administrations (Jan. 17)
 - New State Superintendent - Jenna Conway (originally from Charlottesville)
 - ii. 2026 Legislative Session - starts tomorrow (Jan 14)
 - HB13/SB666 - municipality can adopt (after referendum) 1% sales tax (no food or hygiene products) solely for public school capital projects. Bipartisan support in past but was vetoed; expected General Assembly to approve and Spanberger administration to sign into law
 - HB92 - equity in public school funding / SOQ (Rasoul)
 - HB 461 (age ranges for sped preschool)
 - HB 473 - special education dispute resolution system and requirement of regional special education ombuds
 - SB 134 - funding formula

6. Update from SEAC representatives on other ACPS committees
 - a. Family Council (Caitlin Foley) - Nov. meeting on talent development, technology; No December meeting for FC
 - b. Personal device policy committee (Betsey Soulsby) - November meeting, also tomorrow (1/14) - data indicates less seizure of student devices, teachers helping with this;
 - c. Student Senate (Jan. 23) meeting about legislative priorities for ACPS; joint meeting between Student Senate and local electeds on April 17
7. Update from ACPS Special Education Leadership - slide deck [here](#)
 - a. First Semester Areas of Focus
 - i. Providing timely Professional Learning Opportunities for Special Education Staff and Administration focusing on:
 - Referrals
 - Eligibility Process
 - Timelines
 - ii. School Resource Officer training completed focusing on what Special Education looks like in ACPS
 - SROs shared they visit with classrooms and have collaborative relationships with all special education teachers (including BASE programs)
 - Follow up with schools for individual student questions and/or plans
 - iii. Human Resources compensation study for hard to fill speciality positions (related service providers)
 - In process and almost finalized
 - b. Areas of Focus Continued
 - i. Division Wide Professional Learning Opportunities:
 - September- Over 20 sessions offered (VA IEP, 504, Behavior, Assessment, CPI, Technology etc)
 - October and November- Making Connections for Classified Staff and Licensed Staff
 - Sessions included strategies for working in BASE programs, behavior strategies, best practices and strategies for working with students with disabilities, CPI, VA IEP
 - Lead Special Education Monthly Meetings
 - Collaboration amongst schools
 - Clarity and consistency on best practices (specially designed instruction, related services, VA IEP)
 - ii. Accessibility Walkthroughs with Building Services - recommendations submitted for areas of need
 - iii. Upcoming February professional learning day (both teachers and teaching assistants)

- c. Key Takeaways from Surveys and Next Steps
 - i. Clarify and Standardize Referral Procedures
 - Partnering with PEATC (Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center) to conduct a workshop for the SEAC committee on referrals and eligibilities (February 2026)
 - Collaborating with the Department of Instruction and Intervention in developing a comprehensive handbook in partnership with our MTSS provider Branching Minds
 - Once the handbook is completed, we will share with SEAC for review
 - Target date for draft is June with implementation in Fall of 2026
 - ii. Special Education Website
 - Updating and relaunching website resources in partnership with technology and communications departments
 - Removing the 2010 Sped Handbook link and will repost once handbook is updated
 - iii. Continue collaborative work with all stakeholders
- 8. Upcoming monthly meeting topics
 - a. Discussion of topics for upcoming monthly meetings; group decided on following:
 - i. SROs/School Security - March or April
 - ii. Virginia DARS (Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services) on transitions - March or April - Alexa Belgard
 - iii. Family Survey and timelines/possible switch to spring in future years - May
 - iv. AI/technology - sometime in fall
 - v. Ayanna Mitchell of Equity Center is another possibility
 - vi. Other topics discussed - academics, bullying
- 9. New Business
 - a. Chris raised the issue of creating social media accounts for SEAC to help raise visibility, engagement w/special education families, but need to articulate and adopt a social media policy in advance. Chris will research policies from other SEACs. General agreement to disable comments on any social media accounts.
- 10. Public comment (in person and by email at spedhelp@k12albemarle.org) - None
- 11. Adjournment