



**Fauquier County Public Schools
Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)**

**March 13, 2025, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
FCPS Central Office Complex, Bldg. A
430 Shirley Avenue, Warrenton**

MINUTES

The meeting was opened at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Amy Hunter. Members in attendance were Amy Hunter, Megan Monnahan, and Anna Williams. Members Marilyn McCombe, Amanda Hazlehurst, Katie Jefferson, Chelsea Racey, and Ashley Menwer were absent. Special Education Director Angie Gum, Executive Director of Student Services Nicholas Napolitano, Student Transition Specialist and PRC Coordinator Dean Spahr attended as consulting members. It was noted that there was not a quorum, so no votes could be taken at the meeting.

Approval of the February meeting minutes was postponed due to lack of quorum.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Presentation:

Angie Gum presented the Annual Plan and Inclusive Practices Update.

Ms. Gum gave an overview of statutory requirements, code definitions (salaries, benefits, purchased services, internal services, and others), funding sources, including state funds, dedicated funds for intensive support services, Medicaid reimbursements, and an interagency pool for private special education placements. She also covered plans for spending funds on equipment, professional development, transportation, and additional resources including 40 iPads and a shared life skills lab for middle and high school students to provide hands-on experience to help students access aligned curriculum and develop vital life skills.

Use of special education funds is guided by the state. These funds are used on adaptive equipment, assistive technology, child find, classroom furniture and computers, diagnostic services, instructional materials, integration, local coordination, related services, outdoor equipment, parent services, program evaluation, salaries, staff development, transition, and special transportation services. There are other state funds made available to school divisions to assist in the cost of implementation of the state special education program standards. The Intensive Support Services request is applied for yearly, and this application must be submitted by the end of September.

Professional development is planned for special education teachers at middle and high schools for providing Tier 3 reading instruction. VLA will be implemented in middle schools this year.

One source of income that is not provided through the special education office, impacts children placed in private special education schools. These funds come from an interagency pool which exists under the Children Services Act and are allocated through FAPT to pay the student share in the cost of services for children who are in or at risk of out-of-home placement.

Ms. Gum also estimates that there are around 30 students receiving services in private preschools this year from the district.

A copy of the Ms. Gum's PowerPoint and Excel spreadsheet being distributed with the minutes.

Reports:

SEAC Chair:

Ms. Hunter proposed moving meetings back to first Thursdays for the 2025-26 school year. This will be an action item on the April meeting agenda.

The State SEAC's Policy and Regulation subcommittee has made recommendations regarding paraeducator training, timeliness of full licensure for provisionally licensed teachers, and transitions for students in self-contained classrooms. The SSEAC will vote on its 2024-25 annual report at the July meeting.

Ms. Hunter's term as the Region 4 parent representative will end in June. The State Board of Education has issued a request for nominations to fill that position. Anyone interested in receiving more information can email Ms. Hunter at seac@fcps1.org.

Special Education Director:

Ms. Gum and Mr. Napolitano attended the Disability Awareness Poster Contest award presentation at P.B. Smith. The winner was Riley Riahi, a fifth grade at P.B. Smith. She was also recognized at the March School Board meeting.

The job fair turnout was fair. There have been multiple job offers made at this time.

The SPED training day in August will include sessions on special education law basics and specialized trainings for different grade levels and content areas.

Copies of *We Want to Go to School: The Fight for Disability Rights* have been purchased and provided to school libraries.

Parent Resource Center:

Mr. Spahr reported final numbers for Youth Resource and Disability Fair. There was a total of 62 vendors, 28 of which were specifically related to disability services. Total attendance was 360 people, counting vendors and attendees. Unified teams from two high schools, and three middle schools participate in the basketball tournament.

Old Business:

Disability Awareness Month Poster Contest winner, Riley Riahi was acknowledged and commended for her award-winning poster.

Annual report: The plan is to frame issues for the annual report at the April meeting and finalize the report at the May meeting. These meetings will be open to the public, but they will not be livestreamed.

Announcements

- March is Disability Awareness Month.

- March 21st is Crazy Sock Day to recognize World Down Syndrome Day.
- April 2 is World Autism Day.

New Business:

Mr. Napolitano provided budget updates from the Superintendent. Dr. Warner's revised budget adjustments, include proposed raises to 3%, 5%, 7% as revised. There was no impact on anything else related to special ed. No impact on the money for the self-contained teachers and no impact to the \$80,000. The board of supervisors has not yet approved the budget.

School board final approval of the budget is expected in April

**SEAC members discussed the possibility of sending a letter to the School Board regarding the budget at the April meeting due to a lack of quorum.

Reminder to SEAC members to review and update the committee bylaws, particularly concerning membership attendance requirements.

Upcoming meetings:

- April 10—SEAC Work Session (SEAC Annual Report)
- May 8—SEAC Work Session (SEAC Annual Report)

Member Roundtable

Ms. Williams proposed updating and modernizing student observation technology. The proposal included using less invasive devices and utilizing Zoom with confidentiality settings for professionals, aiming to reduce classroom disruption and improve the accuracy of observations. Ms. Gum reports schools should already be doing this and will make school contact to correct.

Ms. Williams proposed that in-person observations by parents and professionals should not require an administrative escort or any escort as there is a teacher present in the classroom. Ms. Williams proposed that parents and professionals have a right to observe with as little interference possible if there is no perceived danger in doing so. Ms. Williams also feels it would be a waste of time and money using administration for this task.

Ms. Monnahan discussed an observation in which she was threatened in the classroom unexpectedly by a parent. She reported feeling safer with a secondary school official present. Ms. Gum reported that attending with a professional allows her to verify what that person is reporting.

Ms. Hunter reinforced that the topic of observation policies and procedures has been brought to the committee by multiple members this year, and this is an issue that will be discussed for inclusion in the SEAC's annual report.

Ms. Hunter asked anyone with thoughts/concerns regarding student observations, including parents and teachers, to share these to the SEAC email address seac@fcps1.org. This input will be shared at the next meeting.

A motion to adjourn was not requested due to lack of quorum. The meeting ended at 6:58 pm.

Submitted by:
Anna Williams
Secretary



**Fauquier County Public Schools
Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)**

**April 10, 2025, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
FCPS Central Office Complex, Bldg. A
430 Shirley Avenue, Warrenton**

MINUTES

The meeting was opened at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Amy Hunter. Members in attendance were Amy Hunter, Chelsea Racey, Ashley Menwer, Amanda Hazlehurst, and Anna Williams. Members Marilyn McCombe, Katie Jefferson, and Megan Monnahan were absent. Special Education Director Angie Gum, Executive Director of Student Services Nicholas Napolitano, Student Transition Specialist and PRC Coordinator Dean Spahr attended as consulting members. School Board Chair Susan Pauling also attended the meeting. As previously announced, the work session was not live-streamed or recorded.

February and March meeting minutes were approved after confirming that a quorum was present.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Reports:

SEAC Chair:

Ms. Hunter updated on state and federal issues affecting committee priorities. She reported that membership applications are now being accepted for 2025-26, and she distributed forms to current members. She asked members who would be planning to return next year to submit their signed forms to her or email them to seac@fcps1.org. She outlined the process for developing the annual report and suggested that an Executive Subcommittee be formed to meet over the summer. This will be considered under New Business. Membership forms for 2025-2026 were distributed, and members were encouraged to renew and recruit new members.

Special Education Director:

Ms. Gum reports the Fresh '25 summer flyer is ready for distribution. It includes detailed plans for multiple event dates and locations. These events will include representation by a student with disabilities and a retired hearing-impaired teacher. These events are potential opportunities for SEAC information distribution.

Ms. Gum also reported on special ed staffing. A few special education teachers have been hired and there remain several vacancies that are being advertised now.

Parent Resource Center:

Mr. Spahr reported pre-planning for the next year's fair, including meetings with high schools after spring break and PRC programming over the summer.

Annual Report Review:

2024-25 Annual Report Preparation

At this meeting, the committee will provide input on the 2024-25 annual report with a focus on policy recommendations. A draft report will be reviewed at the next meeting. The draft will be distributed with the meeting agenda, approximately a week before the May 8 meeting.

SEAC Goals

Members reviewed goals from the previous year (2023-24) and the current year (2024-25), focusing on inclusive practices and literacy instruction, and the need to tweak plans based on actual developments.

Public Comment

The SEAC received one public comment on the need for teachers, especially art teachers, to collaborate and consult with special education staff to adapt lessons for children with special needs and to ensure that adaptive equipment is available. She emphasized the lead time required to develop alternative assignments and the need for communication with schools in advance of program changes.

Policy Recommendation: Parent Observations

This issue has been raised at the past two meetings, and members agreed that there are several issues that should be addressed in a SEAC policy recommendation regarding parent observations of students in classrooms and other school settings. Although an FCPS policy on observations covers all FCPS students, most such observations involve students with disabilities. This is an important issue for parents of students with disabilities who need to gather information participate effectively in their child's IEP meetings. For parents of students with limited communication abilities, classroom observations answer questions about their child's experience, which other parents can get by simply asking their child directly. SEAC members have raised several concerns regarding FCPS policy on parent observations and the way and the way that it is implemented in different schools. Following is a list of the concerns and principles expressed by SEAC members to be addressed in a policy recommendation:

- A consistent policy is needed across FCPS regarding observations by parents and by non-school providers at the request of a parent. (There are inconsistencies in FCPS policy documents on observations, including "FCPS Observation Protocols" and the *Student/Parent Handbook*.)
- Concern was raised that a required observation request form was titled "Special Education" and there was no similar form required for parents of non-disabled students. (Note: Since this concern was raised, that form has been amended to remove the reference to "special education," and it is now being used for all students.)
- There should be no unnecessary barriers that prevent or delay a parent's access to an observation of their child. Any requirements of parents should be necessary to protect the safety and privacy of students and staff, or to comply with existing laws.
- Principals (or their designees) should respond to a parent's observation request within 24 hours and schedule the observation in a reasonable amount of time. Parents who have a time-sensitive IEP-related issue should be told to contact the Director of Special Education, who should address those requests on an individual basis.
- Observations should not be delayed unnecessarily because a particular staff member is unavailable, unless the parent agrees to such a delay.
- Schools should accommodate a parent's request to exclude a particular administrator/staff member (other than the classroom teacher) from an observation if the parent believes that the presence of that individual would impact the child's behavior during the observation.

- A principal should not be allowed to deny a parent request for an observation without cause. Requests should only be denied in extremely limited and well-defined circumstances. Parents should not be barred from observations except in extreme circumstances for safety reasons.
- The SEAC recommendation should mention a parent's right under IDEA to participate meaningfully in their child's IEP process, which may include the need to observe the child in the or have a non-school provider make an independent observation.
- There should be flexibility in the method for observing the student depending on the objective of the parent or professional observing. The preferred method should be remote observation via a camera in the classroom since it is the least disruptive; however, parents should be allowed to observe in the classroom if a remote observation will not give them the information they need. There should also be an option for off-site remote observations (e.g., via Zoom) for parents who are unavailable to come to the school.
- Parents need online access to the policy and procedures, and any required forms. This information should also be readily available from each school office.
- Any policy should contain a statement that parents may contact the Director of Special Education if they have any questions or concerns about an observation request involving a student with an IEP or 504 Plan, or a student who is suspected of having a disability.

Ms. Williams asked staff if there is a legal option for making a temporary recording that parents could access for up to 24 hours, when it would be automatically deleted, for parents who are unavailable during the school day or to allow parents to view the observation confidentially with an outside professional. Ms. Gum said she would investigate.

The committee discussed whether it was acceptable to require parents to complete a request form, or if any written request should be sufficient. Ms. Menwer raised the objection that requiring that parents use a specific form creates an unjustified burden on parents, who could otherwise just send an email or a handwritten note. Also, the current FCPS form makes it very easy for a principal to reject a parent request without even giving a reason. Ms. Hunter agreed, but said she thought a form could make the process consistent and ensure that parents receive the full policy and Ms. Gum's contact information. Members agreed that, if there is a form, it must be readily available to parents online and in school offices.

Ms. Menwer addressed Ms. Pauling as a School Board member. Ms. Pauling stated that she was attending the SEAC as a parent of a student with a disability and not in her role on the School Board. Ms. Pauling and Ms. Menwer exchanged comments. Ms. Hunter reiterated that the SEAC develops its recommendations and approves them as a committee before sending them to the school board. These recommendations include response to observation requests within 24 hours, that somebody will respond to a parent within 24 hours, that it will be scheduled within a reasonable amount of time. Ms. Gum should be able to make special accommodations to expedite observations on a by case basis related to need.

Special Education Staffing Shortage

The discussion highlighted the challenges in staffing special education positions and the need for creative budgeting to fill these roles. The importance of supporting teachers and aides in self-contained classrooms was emphasized. The committee reviewed recommendations regarding caseloads and staffing, emphasizing the importance of maintaining appropriate levels. Members agreed the annual report should be updated to remove the sections on special education administrators, psychologists, and social workers. The report should include appreciation for increased funding to address staffing shortages in special education.

Special Education Training, Materials, and Support

Members mentioned supporting elective teachers with adaptive equipment and training. Ms. Hazlehurst pointed out that case managers work with these teachers to address the needs of individual students. Ms. Gum mentioned that there is an emphasis on collaboration among district-level personnel to ensure that elective teachers have advanced notice in schools where program classrooms are changing.

The need for a detailed training reference manual for instructional assistants was discussed, with suggestions for including information on disabilities and classroom support strategies.

Literacy

Literacy recommendations should be updated to reflect implementation of the Virginia Literacy Act.

Ms. Menwer asked for clarification on who are the 504 coordinators in schools and asked that these roles be better publicized. Ms. Gum stated that she is the 504 Coordinator for FCPS and that assistant principals in each building are responsible for overseeing their students' 504 plans.

Inclusive Practices Plan

Members agreed to state continued support for implementation of the inclusive practices plan to ensure students are in the least restrictive environment (LRE). Ms. Hunter stressed that this goal is a top priority and on-going. More progress is expected in 2025-26 as LRE remains a top priority of SEAC.

Members agreed to include a new recommendation to the following based on a recommendation by the State SEAC Policy and Regulations Subcommittee, which Ms. Hunter shared with the group: "Recommend that the IEP team include a representative from the school that the child would attend the following year if he or she did not have a disability." Ms. Gum stated that her team is making it a priority to ensure that general education is the first placement considered for all rising Kindergarteners, especially with the new VAAP tool.

Mental Health and Social Emotional Learning

Members agreed to continue the existing recommendation.

American Sign Language

Members agreed to continue the existing recommendation.

Students in Program Classrooms Transitioning from Pre-K to Kindergarten

SEAC Goal: Parent Involvement

Members discussed the need for a parent survey in 2025-26. This was a goal from the last annual report that the committee did not complete in this school year. Members should work on identifying opportunities to solicit public comment into 2025-26.

SEAC Goal: Awards Program

This is a priority for 2025-26

SEAC Goal: Review Existing FCPS Policies

The committee agreed to have the Executive Subcommittee review existing FCPS policies and identify any that should be a priority for discussion by the full SEAC in 2025-26.

These recommendations will be included in a draft report to be distributed prior the May meeting. Members will review and revise the draft report at that meeting.

Old Business

Members agreed without objection to return SEAC meeting to the 1st Thursday of the month in 2025-26. The SEAC bylaws state that meetings will be monthly. This will be discussed as part of a bylaws review.

2025-2026 Tentative Meeting Dates:

- September 4—Organizational Meeting
- October 2—Issue Presentation
- November 6—Issue Presentation
- December 4—Issue Presentation
- January—NO MEETING (Winter Break)
- February—Issue Presentation
- March 5—FCPS Annual Plan Review
- April 2—SEAC Annual Report Discussion
- May 7—Finalize SEAC Annual Report

The SEAC is recruiting members for 2025-26. Interested parents should email seac@fcps1.ort for more information and an application.

SEAC Annual report to be finalized on May 9.

New Business

The committee agreed without objection to establish a subcommittee consisting of the chair, vice chair, and secretary, which will meet at least twice over the summer in the Special Education Office. All SEAC members will be invited and are welcome to participate in subcommittee discussions. Subcommittee meetings will be open to the public. The subcommittee will address the following items: (1) Possible revisions to the SEAC bylaws (any proposed changes would require approval by the full SEAC); (2) Review of existing FCPS school board and administration policies to identify those with the potential to disproportionately or uniquely impact students with disabilities; (3) Develop plans for the awards program that has been discussed at earlier meetings; and (4) Plan for the coming 2025-26 SEAC year. The committee agreed without objection to ask Ms. Gum to invite Chiquita Seaborne from the VDOE Office of Family Engagement to speak at the September SEAC meeting. This office regularly provides orientations and trainings for SEACs around the state.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm on a motion by Ms. Williams that was seconded by Ms. Racey and approved unanimously.

Submitted by:

Anna Williams

Secretary



**Fauquier County Public Schools
Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)**

**May 8, 2025, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
FCPS Central Office Complex, Bldg. A
430 Shirley Avenue, Warrenton**

MINUTES

The meeting was opened at 6:05 p.m. by Chair Amy Hunter. Members in attendance were Amy Hunter, Chelsea Racey, Marilyn McCombe, Megan Monnahan, and Anna Williams. Members, Katie Jefferson, Amanda Hazlehurst, and Ashley Menwer were absent. Special Education Director Angie Gum and Executive Director of Student Services Nicholas Napolitano attended as consulting members. As previously announced, the work session was not live-streamed or recorded.

Elliot Robinson was introduced as a candidate for next year's committee, noted for his experience in special education and attendance at SEAC meetings. His application will be submitted along with those of returning members when the annual report is submitted to the School Board.

Ms. Racey made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Monnahan seconded the motion, which was approved. The minutes of the April meeting were approved without objection.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Reports:

SEAC Chair:

Ms. Hunter asked members who are planning to return next year to submit their signed forms to her or email them to seac@fcps1.org Ms. Hunter informed that committee that she will compile all applications for 2025-26 and submit them to the School Board with the annual report. She asked everyone to publicize that the SEAC needs members for next year, and parents with diverse backgrounds and community connections should be encouraged to apply for SEAC membership.

She discussed plans for meetings of an executive subcommittee to be held in the Central Office Complex, Building B, during the summer. These meetings will be open to the public. and agendas will be posted on the SEAC webpage and in the Special Education office. Anyone who would like to be added to the subcommittee distribution list should email a request to seac@fcps1.org.

Minutes from this (May) SEAC meeting will be considered for approval at the September meeting.

Special Education Director:

Ms. Gum reported the Special Ed. department continues with interviews and staff hiring. She discussed TTAC (Training and Technical Assistance Center) co-teaching grants, which are available statewide and came through Region 5.

- Ms. Hazlehurst had forwarded information about these grants, and Ms. Gum confirmed FCPS is included in the process.

Ms. Gum reports preparations are being made for a special education training day during Teacher Work Week.

Parent Resource Center:

There were no updates from the Parent Resource Center.

Annual Report Review:

- The 2024-25 draft annual report was reviewed by committee and a spelling correction was made.. Ms. Williams made a motion to approve the 2024-25 annual report, and Ms. Racey seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. The report will be submitted to the School Board in late May or June, along with the committee member applications for the next year.

Old Business:

Committee Membership and Application Process

- Ms. Monnahan has agreed to apply for the teacher representative role for 2025-26.
- Applications received so far include Elliot Robinson's, with efforts ongoing to reach the target of nine members. Currently, there are five applicants confirmed.
- Member application forms will be sent individually by email; members are to return signed, (scanned) copies for inclusion in the submission packet.
- The report and membership list will be submitted together once all forms are collected. If the committee is not full, recruiting will continue, and new applicants may attend meetings as non-voting members until officially approved by the School Board.

Ms. Hunter requested that anyone interested in joining the SEAC email her at seac@fcps1.org to schedule a time to discuss SEAC membership.

Meeting dates for 2025-26 will be the first Thursday of each month during the school year, except
January: September 4—Organizational Meeting (Work Session) October 2—Issue Presentation
November 6—Issue Presentation

December 4—Issue Presentation

January—NO MEETING (Winter Break)

February—Issue Presentation

March 5—FCPS Annual Plan Review

April 2—SEAC Annual Report Discussion (Work Session)

May 7—Review and Finalize SEAC Annual Report (Work Session)

- Meetings designated as “work sessions” will not be live-streamed or recorded. All meetings will be open to the public and will include a public comment time.
- Issue presentation meetings (including March) will be live-streamed.
- The organizational work session on September 4 is intended agenda-setting and training, including a presentation by Dr. Chiquita Seaborne from the Department of Education on the role of local SEACs. Ms. Gum will invite Dr. Seaborne

New Business:

The committee agreed to hold two executive subcommittee meetings during the summer, with the option for a third if needed. The subcommittee meetings will be held on Tuesdays, June 24 and July 22, from

10:00-noon. Subcommittee members may elect to hold a third meeting, if one is needed. These are public meetings, and the agendas will be posted on the SEAC website and in the Special Education office. The subcommittee will review the SEAC Bylaws, FCPS Policy and Regulations, Award Program planning, and planning for 2025-26 SEAC Presentations. The subcommittee will include Ms. Hunter, Ms. Monnahan, Ms. Williams, and any other interested members. Meetings will be open to the public. Communications will be emailed to SEAC members, and others upon request.

The subcommittee will focus on reviewing policies and regulations, planning the awards program, and preparing for future issue presentation meetings. Assignments and agenda items will be distributed in advance. A comprehensive review of existing school board policies and associated regulations is planned, with emphasis on those impacting special education and those with a significant impact on students with disabilities (e.g., restraint and seclusion, observation policies).

Policy areas to be reviewed are listed below, along with the subcommittee member assigned to preview those policies prior to the first meeting):

1. SEAC Bylaws
2. Community Relations (Ms. Hunter)
3. Business (Ms. Hunter)
4. Support Services and Facilities (Ms. Williams)
5. Personnel (Ms. Hunter)
6. Instruction (Ms. Monnahan)
7. Students (Ms. Racey)

Members listed above have been assigned specific sections to review, using the www.fcps1.org website to access both school board policies and their associated regulations. Policies are categorized, and the regulations are attached to each policy though a separately linked page.

Members are asked to review the policies and regulations relevant to special education, printing and annotating them as needed, and compiling a list of items of interest. **Members are to email their compiled lists to Ms. Hunter by June 20 to allow preparation of meeting materials.**

SEAC bylaws review will be conducted separately. Members are expected to read the bylaws available on the SEAC webpage.

- Discussion included whether local SEAC bylaws align with state expectations and statutory requirements, and the need to ensure compliance with school board bylaws.
- The subcommittee will also review school board bylaws affecting advisory committees, including rules for remote participation and live streaming, and discuss whether to recommend changes.

Awards Program and Community Initiatives

Ms. Monnahan was tasked with coordinating with Mr. Napolitano to develop a proposed awards plan, with the goal of presenting a draft at a summer subcommittee meeting for feedback before bringing it to the full committee in September.

Community outreach events discussed included:

- Arc @ the Park is Sunday May 18, 2025, at Bright Spot Playground in Culpepper. This is an inclusive playground, with free giveaways and activities. Recommended as a fun event worth attending.
- An arts and music program for adults (18+) in partnership with Jewell Tone Music and Art in Culpeper. The program is ongoing, with sessions available for new participants and a need for consistent volunteers. There will be a summer session.
- Flyers for these events, as well as for “Arts for All,” will be shared via email with the minutes encourage broader volunteer support and participation.

- A car show will be held at Liberty High School on Saturday the 17th, with proceeds benefiting Area 27 Special Olympics. The event will feature DJs, food trucks, and is scheduled from 10 AM to 2 PM.
- Members were encouraged to distribute flyers and event information to relevant contacts, including transition coordinators and COSA, to maximize outreach.

Member Roundtable:

There were no comments at the member roundtable.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm on a motion by Ms. Monnahan that was seconded by Ms. Racey and approved unanimously.

Submitted by:

Anna Williams

Secretary



**Fauquier County Public Schools
Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)**

**October 2, 2025, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
FCPS Central Office Complex, Bldg. A
430 Shirley Avenue, Warrenton**

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Chair Amy Hunter. Members in attendance were Amy Hunter, Anna Williams, Chelsea Racey, Marilyn McCombe, Elliott Robinson, Molly Lawson, Willette Trevis, and Megan Monnahan. New member Zach Roberts was absent due to a previous commitment. Special Education Director Angie Gum, Executive Director of Student Services Nicholas Napolitano, and Student Transition Specialist/PRC Coordinator Dean Spahr attended as consulting members. The September meeting minutes were approved on a motion made by Ms. Monnahan and seconded by Ms. McCombe. The motion was to approve the September minutes of the SEAC. The motion result: All in favor.

Public Comment:

There was one public comment presented. Ms. Kristen Baker reported to the SEAC that her son's IEP for dyslexia had not been followed at PB Smith Elementary. Specifically, his pull-out services were not provided during the first several weeks of school, and his classroom teacher admitted that she had not been providing his IEP accommodations because she did not want him to feel different. In speaking with both his special and general education teachers, it was clear that they were not aware of all the accommodations in his IEP. Ms. Baker advocated for review of current processes used to insure staff compliance with IEP provisions. She requested that families be surveyed to explore possible systemic IEP issues in Fauquier County. She urged school representatives to explore training opportunities for staff, and encouraged increased accountability and oversight of the IEP process.

Reports:

SEAC Chair:

Ms. Hunter presented the 2024-25 SEAC annual report to the school board in September, including the proposed SEAC membership roster for 2025-26. The report will be considered for final approval by the school board at its next meeting. SEAC officers will be elected at the November meeting. Formed Families Forward contact, Stacia Stribling,

was invited to speak for about 10 minutes at the November meeting. Her organization focuses on foster/kinship families who have students with special needs. They are a PATH Foundation grant recipient for Fauquier and Culpeper counties.

Special Education Director:

Ms. Gum reported on Inclusion Plan progress. Assistant principals hold monthly meetings with set agendas and topics aligned to 10 inclusion indicators. Indicator 1 (Vision and Vocabulary) has been completed across schools. Work is moving into Indicator 2 (Legislative and Accountability Standards), including school-level inclusion plans and a self-assessment process.

Staffing remains short. Possibly one IA opening added, and a few special education teacher openings remain.

There has been strong collaboration with Department of Instruction to bridge gaps and work toward inclusion. The application for the regional program for students with intensive support needs (SISN) has been submitted. The host division is Fauquier County with an MOU with Warren County (Rappahannock no longer participating). Work on the 1% cap for VAAP survey due within two weeks: Calculations completed with Math at 1.02%, Reading at 1.01%, Science at 0.92%; this reflects successful reduction from ~1.7-2% previously. The exact student counts not provided but impact is significant. Federal law defines students with the most significant cognitive disabilities as no more than one percent of the student population.

School Board Policy Updates, Summer 2025 was presented by Ms. Gum: Summary of new and updated policies affecting special education, including Policy 5.8.8 (new autism training requirement), updates to Policy 6.3.9 (IEP emergency accommodations and AAC documentation/training), Policy 7.3.1 (cell phone exceptions for IEP/504), and a note on Policy 7.6.1 (telehealth consideration not adopted). Additional legislative items include listing a transition contact on each high school website and a high school IEP meeting requirement to address transition planning.

Student Services Director:

Restraint and seclusion update was presented by Mr. Napolitano. Numbers on the website increased substantially from the prior year's single digits. Increase was isolated to several specific students with repeated incidents, including students new to the division and/or transitioning from other settings. Each school has a crisis intervention team trained annually via Handle With CARE; trainers train staff division-wide. Not all special education teachers are necessarily trained; crisis team members respond. Discussion covered ensuring adequate trained staff presence in classrooms, addressing trauma impacts on other students, basic awareness training for substitutes and non-trained staff about what constitutes restraint, that they must not perform restraints, and what to do in the event a student is a threat to himself or others. There is an anonymous tip line on the FCPS website and posted in all schools, and anyone can submit information to it for review. Restraint numbers are reported to the state as student services data; no specific response received from the state. Statewide comparison charts are available.

Parent Resource Center:

Mr. Spahr reports the date for this year’s Disability Fair is on February 28 at Liberty High School. In case of inclement weather the event will move to March 14. A request was made to send a “save the date” notice to families due to competing events (e.g., Battle of the Books finals). Outreach to middle and high school unified teams was initiated to invite participation.

Old Business: SEAC Recognition Award Plan was presented by Ms. Monnahan: An award to recognize Fauquier County staff who go above and beyond in supporting and including students with special needs will occur in March at the school board meeting. Surveys seeking nominations will be released by December, due by early February, with selections submitted prior to March.

- Survey Development Status: A parent survey for special education was presented in draft form by Mr. Robinson (with input from Ms. McCombe). Objectives include collecting demographic data, allowing for one response per student with an IEP, measuring parent perceptions across key areas, assessing awareness of resources, using a forced-choice Likert scale with a “don’t know/not aware” (specific wording TBD) option, including 2–3 open-ended questions, optional contact fields for follow-up, establishing a baseline for future comparisons, timing and platform considerations, anonymity, and clear confidentiality notices for open-ended responses. Offering an incentive to surveyed participants was also mentioned. Survey question revisions proposed by multiple participants: Rework parent communication and training/information survey items to avoid ambiguity, consider adding N/A options for grade-level applicability, and restructure response options.

Add diploma track demographic item proposed by multiple participants: Include a demographic question on a student's diploma track with options such as advanced or standard diploma, applied studies diploma, and options for don't know/unsure/not familiar/NA. Optional contact notifications for Special Education and SEAC. This planned survey to be administered in January 2026 with results available by February.

- SEAC Brochure Update was pushed until SEAC elections are held in November.
- SEAC Policy Recommendations and Comments Chart, as approved by the Executive Subcommittee in July, was adopted by the full committee without objection. Ongoing updates will be made as new policies are added. The chart does not yet include the policy updates that were adopted by the school board over the summer as a result of new state legislation.
- Collaboration with Gifted Advisory Committee proposed by Ms. Hunter: Plan for a jointly sponsored family presentation separate from ACF; Ms. Hunter will attend their next meeting to coordinate timing and topics.

New Business:

Presentation Topics Updated

- November 6 –Virginia Literacy Act Implementation Update by Ms. Boring / Tier 3 Reading Intervention Programs by Ms. Gum (and brief presentation by Formed Families Forward)
- December 4 –(possibly 2E Learners, but this will likely be a separate event) Added: Policy Review and Parent Survey Completion
- January –NO MEETING
- February 5 –FCPS Disability Discrimination Policy & Reporting Process by Mr. Napolitano
- March 5 –Special Education Annual Report and Inclusive Practices Update by Ms. Gum; Possible Inclusion Topic Presentation (Co-Teaching)
- April 2- NO COMMITTEE MEETING
Executive Subcommittee will meet April 2 to draft Annual Report
- May 7- Annual Report Draft Revision and Approval

Member Roundtable

Ms. McCombe Shared flyers and encouraged participation in Acrtober Craft Fair on 10/18/2025, Art for All's fall session dates, and The Arc's virtual yoga program.

Ms. Williams explored potential use of AI tools for teacher support. She suggested evaluation of school-appropriate AI programs to reduce paperwork and streamline supervision, including special education-related tools. It was noted the technology department is researching AI options, conducting trainings, and setting parameters; emphasis on data quality, privacy, and careful implementation.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm on a motion by Ms. Williams, that was seconded by Ms. Trevis and approved unanimously.

Submitted by:

Anna Williams

Secretary



**Fauquier County Public Schools
Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)**

November 6, 2025, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

**FCPS Central Office Complex, Bldg. A
430 Shirley Avenue, Warrenton**

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Chair Amy Hunter. Members in attendance were Amy Hunter, Anna Williams, Chelsea Racey, Marilyn McCombe, Elliott Robinson, Molly Lawson, Willette Trevis, and Zach Roberts. Member Megan Monnahan was absent due to a family commitment. Special Education Director Angie Gum and Assistant Superintendent of Student Services Nicholas Napolitano attended as consulting members. Student Transition Specialist/PRC Coordinator Dean Spahr was absent due to illness.

New member Zach Roberts was welcomed. Attendees introduced themselves. Mr. Roberts shared that he is a parent of two children, a professional librarian, and received special education services himself as a child.

There was no public comment.

The October meeting minutes were unanimously approved on a motion made by Ms. Racey and seconded by Mr. Robinson.

Presentation by Stacia Stribling, Deputy Director, Formed Families Forward

- **Organization Overview:** Formed Families Forward is a family-led nonprofit and Community Parent Resource Center (CPRC) for Virginia, serving foster, adoptive, and kinship families with children who have specialized needs.
- **Services and Resources:** The organization provides free services, including one-on-one consultations, webinars on special education and trauma, an online resource directory, a monthly newsletter, and an online learning management system with courses on special education and trauma.
- **Local Initiatives:** A PATH Foundation grant has expanded their work into Fauquier and Culpeper counties. They are running a monthly teacher cohort in Fauquier on trauma and

challenging behaviors and launching a new website, FASD Virginia Hub, to support families of children with prenatal substance exposure.

Presentation: Virginia Literacy Act (VLA) and Tier III Reading Interventions

Presenters: Whitney Boring, Director of Instruction; Kathy Crane, Elementary Literacy Supervisor; and Angie Gum, Director of Special Education

- **Requirements and Assessments**

- Students in grades 4-8 who scored "basic" or "below basic" on the spring reading SOL must have a Student Reading Plan (SRP) and participate in the VALS screener. Approximately 30% of the middle school population qualified.
- A student's reading plan is active for one year. Those students passing the spring SOL test will not be required to have a SRP the following year. A growth assessment in December can be used as a predictor for SOL performance.
- Requirements for high school students will be dependent on state mandates, which often come with little lead time
- For VALS assessments, grades 4-8 have one more window in January; grades K-3 have two more (winter and spring).

- **Intervention and Instruction**

- The division uses the state-approved HMH core curriculum for middle school, supplemented by materials like IXL.
- The primary intervention for grades 6-8 is Lexia Power Up. Tier 3 special education interventions include Read 180 (middle school), Lexia (high school), and UFLI/Lindamood-Bell (elementary).
- The SPIRE program is being used for K-3 instruction and has received positive feedback. IMSE is no longer on the VLA-approved list.
- Per the Early Reading Initiative (ERI), reading specialists must implement an additional 2.5 hours of instruction for grades K-3. There is no state-mandated time requirement for grades 4-8.

- **SRP Development and Family Communication**

- SRPs are developed using evidence like VALS and SOL data and are considered living documents, reviewed and updated three times a year.
- Families received letters inviting them to participate in creating the SRPs, though participation varied by school. Finalized SRPs will be available to parents by November 21st via the ParentVue portal.
- SEAC members noted that they had not received the second letter described by Ms. Boring (an invitation to participate in developing their student's SRP), although they did receive the first letter describing the process.
- Ms. Williams noted confusion about accessing Lexia from home; it was clarified that login must be through the student's ClassLink account.
- If a student with an SRP does not make progress, the team may consider a referral for a special education evaluation.

Reports:

SEAC Chair: Ms. Hunter reported no updates other than what is covered in the new business section.

Parent Resource Center: Ms. Gum presented for Mr. Spahr (PRC) as he was absent. This year's Disability Fair is on February 28 at Liberty High School. Flyer for the "I'm Determined Summit" has been sent out to families. This three-day event is highly recommended by Ms. Hunter.

Special Education Director: Ms. Gum informed the SEAC of a Level One elementary program that was closed due to extreme staffing shortages. Affected students were moved to a similar program at another school. She advised that the division continues to work with TTAC (George Mason) for training, with an FBA/BIP training scheduled for January. Lastly, the Virginia IEP system will slowly roll out a new progress tracker to monitor goal data. A future survey by the VDOE will also gather input for school personnel on potential AI integration for IEP writing.

Old Business:

- **Officer Elections:** The committee elected Amy Hunter as Chair, Anna Williams as Secretary, and Willette Trevis as Vice Chair.
- **Collaboration:** Ms. Hunter reported that the Gifted Advisory Committee is interested in co-hosting a joint forum on "2E Learners" but would want to wait until Fall 2026. They raised a question about who would pay for the program. Ms. Hunter mentioned that she would also reach out to Ladonna Gorham of Mountain Vista Governor's School to discuss collaboration.
- **Parent Survey:** The December meeting will be dedicated to finalizing the parent survey.
- **Public Comment:** Ms. Gum reported that the public comment from last month regarding a student issue has been addressed, and staff are in the process of working towards a resolution.
- **Presentation Topic Updates**
 - December 4—Parent Survey Planning
 - January—NO MEETING
 - February 5—FCPS Disability Discrimination Policy & Reporting Process (Mr. Napolitano)
 - March 5—Special Education Annual Report Review; Inclusive Practices Update (Ms. Gum)
 - April—NO MEETING
(Executive Subcommittee will meet **April 2** to draft Annual Report)
 - May 7—Annual Report Draft Revision and Approval

New Business:

- The Disability Awareness Resource Document update will be coordinated by Mr. Roberts and Ms. Hunter. This document will be distributed in March.

Member Roundtable:

- The Arc of North Central Virginia is hosting an open house on November 19 from 5-7 pm.
- A sensory-friendly "Pictures with Santa" event will be held at The Arc of North Central Virginia on December 6 from 10 am to 1 pm. Registration is required at www.arcofncv.org.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm on a motion by Ms. Trevis, which was seconded by Ms. Williams and approved unanimously.

Submitted by:

Anna Williams

Secretary



**Fauquier County Public Schools
Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)**

December 4, 2025, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

**FCPS Central Office Complex, Bldg. A
430 Shirley Avenue, Warrenton**

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Chair Amy Hunter. Members in attendance were Amy Hunter, Anna Williams, Chelsea Racey, Elliott Robinson, Molly Lawson, Zach Roberts, and Megan Monnahan. Members Willette Trevis and Marilyn McCombe were absent due to personal and family illness. Special Education Director Angie Gum, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services Nicholas Napolitano, and PRC Coordinator Dean Spahr attended as consulting members.

The November meeting minutes were approved on a motion made by Ms. Lawson and seconded by Ms. Racey, which was approved unanimously.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Reports:

SEAC Chair:

Disability Awareness Month Art Contest: The annual poster contest for Disability Awareness Month in March is being expanded to include all art forms and all grade levels (elementary, middle, and high school). The theme remains "Choose to Include," and art teachers are encouraged to create lessons that celebrate differences and foster inclusion beyond common disability portrayals. Two winners from each level (elementary, middle, high) at each school will be selected by the art team. Finalists will be recognized at the March 10 school board meeting. Winning artwork will be displayed at the Fine Arts Festival.

State SEAC Update: Kelly Huff from Loudoun County has just been appointed to the position of region 4 Parent Representative. A concern was raised that long vacancies for parent

representative positions make it difficult to maintain a majority of parents and people with disabilities on the state committee, as required. An upcoming key issue at the state level is research into the state's dispute resolution system, particularly regarding due process cases, making regional parent representation crucial.

Upcoming Presentation by Mr. Napolitano scheduled for February, on the county disability discrimination policy and reporting process.

February Meeting: Members were asked to email their questions for Mr. Napolitano in advance so he can tailor the presentation.

Parent Resource Center:

The **Youth Resources Fair** is scheduled for February 22 at Liberty HS. There are 25 vendors scheduled with potential for more to be added.

Ms. Stribling at Formed Families Forward has reached out for collaboration with the PRC and Mr. Spahr will meet with her after the holiday break.

Special Education Director:

Reading Plans for Special Education Students (response to question at November meeting):

- Elementary Schools: 39% of special education students have a reading plan based on K-3 or middle school criteria.
- Middle Schools have 63% of students in reading plans; details tied to testing and education indicators for K-3 and grades 4-8.

(Note: Figures pertain to special education students only.)

Program Highlights and Regional Collaboration:

- Transitions program held a successful market event showcasing student-made items.
- Attendance at CoLA (Regional Autism trainings through George Mason) with SPED supervisors and behavior specialist; collaboration with Region 4 peers.
-

State FBA/BIP Guidance Update and Local Implementation:

- State updated FBA/BIP guidance; local team (Gen Ed, SPED, social workers, behavior specialists, supervisors) updating division document.
- Aim: Clarify definitions, vocabulary (FBA/BIP, RTI), and decision flows across Gen Ed and SPED; include flowcharts for pathways (elementary to autism supports).
- Plan to share updated guidance in February; incorporate into summer AP trainings; ensure role-specific focus (implementation, data collection).
- Questions raised about parent-friendly versions and recording trainings for later access, suggestion for Parent Resource Center session in the fall.
- Administrator awareness emphasized, though implementation roles vary (social workers, behavior interventionists, program staff).

Old Business:

SEAC Brochure Updated (date, member list, QR codes tested, removed prior state SEAC representative reference). Meeting dates reflect full committee. (Subcommittee in April not listed.) Plan to print more copies for placement in school lobbies and local libraries. SEAC request to share with Dr. Warner's school representative network and PTOs.

Outreach visibility ideas: lanyards saying "Ask me about the SEAC"; target readiness by February; confirm use alongside standard visitor badges in schools.

Teacher Appreciation Award:

SEAC 2026 Exceptional Service Award nominations:

Ms. Monnahan presented final documents for a new recognition award to be presented during the March school board meeting for Disability Awareness Month. Dr. Warner has approved the initiative, and the documents will be sent to Mr. Napolitano for a final approval. The goal is to publish the nomination information in the "Highlights" newsletter before the winter break.

Nomination Process: A Google Form will be used for nominations, which is designed to be simple and user-friendly for parents. The form asks for the nominator's name and email, the nominee's name and work location, and their role (teacher, support staff, or administrator). A response of 250-500 words is requested to explain how the individual demonstrates excellence in serving the special education community and advocates for inclusivity.

Distribution and Target Audience: The nomination opportunity will be distributed to families via the "Highlights" newsletter. The intent is to allow families to nominate staff directly, as this recognition is often more meaningful than administrator-led awards. Nominations are open to anyone, including administrators, other teachers, and potentially students (with parental assistance), not just parents.

Eligibility: The award is for "exceptional service to students with disabilities" and is not limited to special education teachers. It can include general education teachers, bus drivers, secretaries, or any staff member who supports inclusion and students with disabilities. The possibility of nominating a team was mentioned but not adopted for the first year.

Nominee Notification: The group discussed whether to notify all nominees or only the selected winners. The decision was made to wait and see how many nominations are received before deciding how to approach this. It was noted that even being nominated is a valuable form of recognition, and sharing the nomination content with the individual could be a positive incentive.

Review and Selection Process: The committee will review the nominations and select the winners. The review process may require a separate subcommittee meeting or a non-livestreamed work session, as the February meeting is already full. The volume of nominations will determine the need for an extra meeting.

Feedback on Promotional Flyer: The flyer will be updated to reflect the award year as 2026. The county schools' logo should be added for official branding. The term "Council" should be changed to "Committee." The flyer should state that the award will be presented in March 2026. The SEAC email address should be added for questions.

SEAC Parent Survey Planning:

The main priority for the evening was to finalize the survey language, create a distribution plan, and plan for compiling and sharing the results. The survey will be a Google Form that populates a Google Sheet with the responses. A one-pager will be created for the person setting up the survey, detailing key dates and technical requirements. The survey will be configured to not capture parent email addresses to maintain privacy.

The proposed timeline for the survey is from January 8-17, avoiding the first week back at school and the MLK Day holiday weekend. The goal is to have the collected data available for review the week following the survey's closure.

The survey will be sent to both parents in a family if both have educational rights, as more feedback is considered better. The survey is specifically for parents of students with IEPs under IDEA, not for those with 504 plans, as the questions are tailored to special education services and IEP meetings.

A Google Form draft will be created and shared with the group for review before finalization. The estimated time it will take to complete the survey is under 10 minutes, which will be mentioned in the introductory email.

Introductory Email: The email will state that the survey is from fellow parents to encourage participation. It will include a brief description of the SEAC (Special Education Advisory Committee). Information on how to contact the SEAC will be included, but requests for contact within the survey itself will be removed.

- **Section 1: Demographic Information:** This section includes questions about the school, disability category, services, placement, and activities of the student.
- **Section 2: Parent Opinion Questions:** These questions address the parents feelings about their child's education and IEP team, including whether the student's academic, functional, developmental, behavioral, and social needs are being met.
- **Section 3: Optional Parent Input:** Optional open-ended questions asking for feedback will be conclude the survey.

A subcommittee was formed to handle the survey data. Mr. Robinson, Ms. Trevis, and Ms. McCombe were named as members. The subcommittee will likely meet sometime in January to review the data. That meeting will be scheduled once we know when the data will be ready.

Data Redaction: The SEAC agreed to remove an option for parents to request information directly in the survey to avoid capturing identifiable information.

Communication: The plan includes sending an initial email and at least one reminder email to encourage participation.

Multiple Submissions: The survey is designed to allow parents to fill it out once for each child they have with an IEP. This is a deliberate choice to avoid issues seen with the state survey, which limits responses to one per parent and requires a manual reset for additional children.

Upcoming Meetings: Presentation Topics:

--January—NO MEETING

--February—FCPS Disability Discrimination Policy & Reporting Process
(Mr. Napolitano), Survey and Awards, and Resources page.

--March—Special Education Annual Report Review; Inclusive Practices Update
(Ms. Gum)

--April—NO MEETING

** (Executive Subcommittee will meet **April 2** to draft Annual Report)

--May 7—Annual Report Draft Revision and Approval

Member Roundtable:

- A sensory-friendly "Pictures with Santa" event will be held at The Arc of North Central Virginia on December 6 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (registration required).

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm on a motion by Ms. Monnahan, that was seconded by Ms. Racey and approved unanimously.

Submitted by:

Anna Williams, Secretary



**Fauquier County Public Schools
Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)**

**September 4, 2025, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
FCPS Central Office Complex, Bldg. A
430 Shirley Avenue, Warrenton**

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Amy Hunter. Members in attendance were Amy Hunter, Anna Williams, Chelsea Racey, Marilyn McCombe, Elliott Robinson, and new members Molly Lawson, and Willette Trevis. Megan Monnahan was absent. Special Education Director Angie Gum, Executive Director of Student Services Nicholas Napolitano, Student Transition Specialist and PRC Coordinator Dean Spahr attended as consulting members. Guest presenter in Attendance: Dr. Chiquita Seaborn.

**This meeting was an informal work session, not live-streamed or recorded.

Approval of minutes

- The May meeting minutes were approved on a motion made by Ms. Racey and seconded by Ms. McCombe. The motion was to approve the May minutes of the SEAC. The motion result: All in favor.
- The July executive subcommittee meeting minutes were approved on a motion made by Ms. Racey and seconded by Mr. Robinson.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Presentation:

Dr. Chiquita Seaborn from the VDOE's Office of Special Education Family Engagement, who works as a Family Engagement Specialist and Special Projects Coordinator, provided a refresher on the role of local Special Education Advisory Committees (SEACs). She is a key contact within the ombudsman's office and was the point person for the state SEAC. Dr. Seaborn's slides will be distributed via email with the meeting minutes.

Reports:

SEAC Chair:

Ms. Hunter provided updates on committee support, PEATC training completion (all members have completed training), upcoming annual report presentation to the School Board on September 22, and thanked members for attending the Executive Subcommittee meetings over the summer. She also reviewed the contents of meeting packets and highlighted updates to goals, bylaws, and policy recommendations.

Special Education Director:

Ms. Gum reported that three behavior specialists are on staff, all supervisor positions are filled. Most special education teacher positions are filled, and instructional assistant positions are fully staffed. Recruiting for special ed teachers will continue until the positions are filled. Building meetings are

starting, focusing on Tier 3 reading interventions at all levels and tiered math supports. Inclusion plan is progressing, and collaboration with TTAC continues. She noted recent school board policy updates due to recent changes in state law regarding autism training, assistive technology, and transitions. Policy updates are now available at Board Docs.

Parent Resource Center:

The Disability Fair will be at Liberty High School again this year. Mr. Spahr reported he is waiting on an alternate date in case of inclement weather before announcing event the date(s).

Old Business:

SEAC Inclusion Award planned for a teacher and/or staff to be discussed next meeting. Ms. Monnahan will provide an update at the October meeting.

The subcommittee reviewed the by-laws and recommended no changes, except the addition of a “date reviewed/updated” line for future reference. The committee voted to approve the existing bylaws without changes. A "date reviewed" will be added to the document to track its last formal examination or update.

The subcommittee also recommended the following addition to the Gifted policy:

Add "or have a disability" to the list of factors that may affect accurate identification. The clause would read: "...including students whom accurate identification may be affected because they are economically disadvantaged, have limited English proficiency, or have a disability."

This recommendation was approved without objection.

Ms. Hunter proposed that the SEAC adopt a chart format to track its recommendations and comments regarding school board policies. Only policies with a impact on students with disabilities beyond the effect on the student population as a whole will be included in the chart. The subcommittee prepared a draft of the chart over the summer, and the SEAC will review it for discussion and approval at the October meeting. The intent is to capture SEAC recommendations and policy concerns in a single document for ease of reference by the School Board and FCPS administrators. Recommendations from the 2024-25 SEAC Annual Report will be included in the chart, along with new recommendations as they are developed and approved by the SEAC. In addition, the chart will contain notes and questions raised by the SEAC about policy implementation.

New Business:

The committee will dedicate its next meeting (October 2) to developing a family engagement survey to be distributed by the Special Education Department to all families of students with IEPs.

- Mr. Robinson will prepare a draft for the committee.
- Members should email topic ideas and questions to seac@fcps1.org
- The goal is to finalize and approve the survey in October
- A draft will be circulated for review 10 days before the meeting.
- The survey will include questions on how parents prefer to receive information to improve engagement.

There is one vacancy on SEAC. There is a strong desire to recruit a person with a disability, particularly a former student, to fill this role.

Members received a packet including the new SEAC Recommendation Chart, the Charges and Members document, the current brochure, public comment guidelines, a Disability Awareness Resources document, supervisor assignments, the 2023 Performance Report, and other resources.

Ms. Hunter proposed to change the April meeting from a full committee meeting to a subcommittee meeting for drafting the annual report, with the full committee to review and approve the report in May to reduce the number of full committee meetings in the cycle. The subcommittee is composed of the SEAC officers and any other members would wish to participate.

The SEAC Brochure will be updated next month once elections are held.

Upcoming meetings:

- October 2- Survey and Policy Chart Discussion
- November 6- Literacy Update Including VLA Implementation in Secondary Schools
- December 4- Issue Presentation (tent. 2E Learners)
- January- No Meeting (Winter Break)
- February 12- FCPS Disability Discrimination and Harassment Policy & Procedures
- March 5- Annual Plan Review and Inclusive Practices Plan Implementation Update
- April 2- Draft Annual Report (Subcommittee Meeting)
- May 7- Review and Finalize SEAC Annual Report

Member Roundtable

Ms. Racey shared information about an app, (Be My Eyes) which connects volunteers with visually impaired individuals via live video to assist with daily tasks.

Ms. McCombe reported The Arc of North Central Virginia's October Craft Fair, which will be held October 18 in the Fauquier High School cafeteria. The craft fair is scheduled for September 19th at Fauquier Park. The Arc is launching a new program called the COSA Passport, which creates "Stamp Spots" at local businesses and organizations in our region. Adults with IDD will take their passports to these locations to receive a unique stamp at each one. Look for the "Stamp Spot" sticker in business windows. There is also a new initiative for young adult entrepreneurs with IDD to help them start businesses and participate in craft fairs. Ms. McCombe will contact Mr. Spahr to share additional information.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm on a motion by Ms. Racey that was seconded by Mr. Robison and approved unanimously.

Submitted by:
Anna Williams
Secretary