

Virginia Beach City Public Schools Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Virginia Beach Special Education Advisory Committee (VB SEAC) was held on **August 18, 2025**, at 9:30 a.m., at the Plaza Annex in Virginia Beach.

Attendance:

Voting Members Present:

Meghan Ashburn - *Chairperson*, Dawn Candia – *Vice-chairperson*, Katie Ali – *Secretary*, Nathan Ballou, Coleen Clementson, Lisa Gehring, Sandra Hermann, Christina Morrow, Monica Parker, Michelle Wood, Jessica Crawford, Kellie Vanella, Alicia Duhaney, Lesly Lancaster, Amber Miller, Samantha-Ann Hager, Tracey Olson, Jessica Byrd

Voting Members Absent: Pull from list above.

Non-Voting Members/Consultant Members Present:

Dr. Roni Myers-Daub - *Executive Director, Office of Programs for Exceptional Children (OPEC)*, **Kathleen Brown** - *Virginia Beach School Board (VBSB) Representative*, **Tania Sotomayor** - *Director of Compliance - Office of Programs for Exceptional Children (OPEC)*, **Laura Armstrong** - *Director, Southeastern Cooperative Educational Programs (SECEP)*, **Barbara Newman** - *Family Outreach Representative*, **Lori Bridges** - *Family Outreach Representative*, **Meredith Hobson** - *Office of Opportunity and Achievement*

Non-Voting Members/Ex-Officio Members Absent: Pull from list above.

Guests:

Quorum Present: YES or NO

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome

- a. Call to order at **9:32** a.m.
- b. Chair's Welcome
Megan welcomed everyone and everyone introduced themselves. Megan explained the role of the SEAC emphasizing it is a policy committee mandated by the state. She also stated that SEAC would like to solicit more public comments. If people cannot attend in person, they can fill out an online form to be shared at the meeting. QR codes will be distributed to school administrators for the school year. School Board Chair, Kathleen Brown stated that she would include SEAC in her September report. Dr. Roni Myers-Daub is also going to add SEAC information in her upcoming report.
- c. Adopt Agenda/Approval of **MONTH** minutes
- d. Business as put forth by the Chair

2. Public Comment

Megan read the public comment policy. One person talked about their desire for seclusion practices to be banned in VBCPS. Topics of public comment including the following:

- Banning Seclusion from VBCPS
- Making AAC devices more accessible
- Requesting alternative removal methods for students, especially in preschool.

3. Presentation/Guest Speaker/Business

Megan explained the recommendations presented by SEAC to the School Board in June 2025. The first SEAC recommendation was to abolish all seclusion practices in VBCPS. Megan updated the SEAC that there have been on-going discussions. It was learned that since seclusion is a regulation and not a policy, the school board cannot vote on this topic, and it remains an administrative decision. Kathleen Brown stated that the school board will wait for the superintendent to make a recommendation on seclusion practices. Laura Armstrong clarified that although the superintendent is on the SECEP board he does not make policy changes for SECEP. Jessica Crawford complimented SEAC and VBCPS for the follow up and attention given to the seclusion issue based on public comment.

4. Consultant Reports

a. **OPEC: Dr. Roni Myers-Daub, Tania Sotomayor –**

Dr. Roni Myers-Daub shared the findings from the report conducted in the spring and stated that they have 30 days to complete an action plan to correct any non-compliance issues. The report included several positive points such as teacher supports, positive communication with parents, sharing caseloads in July, consistency with case managers, excellent co-planning, good retention practices, and effective work study programs such as the school-based coffee shops. The topics to be improved upon included: completing the process according within the timeline, providing documented evidence that parents receive all necessary paperwork, providing the purpose when outside sources such as CPS access student's files, and increasing co-teaching so students are not pulled out to receive services. Dr. Myers-Daub stated that she will present a more in-depth report once the Corrective Action Plan is completed.

b. **SECEP: Laura Armstrong –**

Laura Armstrong said that the summer program wrapped up successfully. Last week SECEP had their service training and all SECEP locations will remain the same for this upcoming school year. The Renaissance Academy has added a full-time counselor.

c. **School Board: Kathleen Brown -**

Kathleen Brown said this week is the service week for school faculty and staff as they all prepare for the 2025-2026 school year. She expressed that she is happy to listen and learn about SEAC and provide resources. Megan asked for Kathleen Brown to

update SEAC on October 13 on what the school board has learned about seclusion practices.

d. **Family Outreach Liaisons: Barbara Newman, Lori Bridges –**

Barbara Newman shared that PSIC was represented at the Care Fair and interacted with over 100 parents.

e. **OOA: Meredith Hobson – N/a**

5. SEAC Business

6. Membership Report

Dawn Candia stated that one new person has joined.

7. Announcements

- Meet in the Middle will be held at Corporate Landing Middle School on October 28 with a rain date of October 30.
- Megan asked members to concentrate on soliciting more public comments.
- PRC meetings will now be available on YouTube.

8. Adjourned meeting at 11am