

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 **January 12, 2026** 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, Lisa Gehring, Christina Morrow, Monica Parker, Kellie Vanella, Alicia Duhaney, Lesly Lancaster, Samantha-Ann Hager, Tracey Olson, Jessica Byrd

Voting Members Absent:

Nathan Ballou, Coleen Clementson, Sandra Hermann, Michelle Wood, Jessica Crawford, Amber Miller, Jessica Byrd

Non-Voting Members/Consultant Members Present:

Dr. Roni Myers-Daub - *Executive Director, Office of Programs for Exceptional Children (OPEC)*, **Kathleen Brown** – *School Board Member*, **Laura Armstrong and Tim Bostic** - *Director, Southeastern Cooperative Educational Programs (SECEP)*, **Barbara Newman** - *Family Outreach Representative*, **Lori Bridges** - *Family Outreach Representative*, **Meredith Hobson** - *Office of Opportunity and Achievement*, **Brittany Fitzgerald**-*Autism Society*,

Non-Voting Members/Ex-Officio Members Absent: **Tania Sotomayor**-*Director of Compliance-Office of Programs for Exceptional Children (OPEC)*

Guests: none

Quorum Present: YES

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome
 - a. Call to order at **9:35** a.m.
 - b. Chair's Welcome

Megan Ashburn welcomed all attendees and announced that the next SEAC meetings will be held in March, May and June.
 - c. Adopt Agenda/Approval of minutes
 - d. Business as put forth by the Chair

Megan Ashburn asked Dawn Candia to report on membership. Dawn Candia asked for all SEAC members to spread the word about SEAC and encourage

others in joining to help maintain a 20 person committee. Presently there are 17 members and no teacher representative.

2. Public Comment-

Public comment regulations were read and two online public comment submissions were read as well as one in person comment shared.

3. Presentation/Guest Speaker/Business-There was no guest speaker.

4. Consultant Reports

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

Dr. Roni Myers-Daub, Office of Programs for Exceptional Children, stated that in March she will give the committee a presentation on the 5-year cyclic review that was just completed. She also informed the committee that several training sessions have taken place such a principal workshop to explain the difference between IEP and 504 plan. This was a turnkey training session, in which all principals are asked to take the information back to their respective schools and train ALL staff. There was additional training given to all principals and assistant principals on the screening process. Hearing Assistive Technology training also took place to increase accurate documentation for devices and to keep track of equipment such as batteries. School psychologists received training on evaluation of English Learners. Dr. Myers-Daub also informed the committee that monitoring sheets were created for schools to collect data to document and maintain for the DOE. Finally, it was reported that the Little Feet Meet will take place in April.

b. **SECEP: Laura Armstrong –**

Laura Armstrong, Southeastern Cooperative Educational Programs, introduced Dr. Tim Bostic the assistant director of curriculum, instruction, and professional development. She shared that the REACH program at St. Mary's Home is currently undergoing the 5-year cyclic review from the DOE. St. Mary's held a holiday balloon parade for students to participate and the community supported. Glenwood and Windsor Wood elementary schools hosted a family game night. Princess Anne High School hosted the middle and high school SECEP families with a gingerbread night including activities and pizza. Renaissance Academy held a fundraiser at Freddie's where families and staff came together. In January there will be a graduation ceremony for one of the students. SECEP staff is also participating in the Polar Plunge. Dr. Bostic shared that SECEP teachers are receiving increased training and coaching to help with classroom management. Teachers are also receiving technological support including the AI directed program. Magic School, to help differentiate lessons for the students to meet their individual needs. There continues to be a focus on literacy.

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

Kathleen Brown, School Board member, stated that she visited Windsor Woods Elementary School. She updated that committee that the School Board will vote on the seclusion policy on Tuesday, January 13, 2026. Dr. Myers-Daub clarified that this

policy applies to ALL VBCPS students not just those students with disabilities. Megan Ashburn suggested that the school board delay their vote and for them to include a provision where they eliminate dedicated seclusion rooms. Seclusion rooms are presently in two schools. Kathleen Brown said it would be unusual for the School Board to delay a vote that was on the agenda and that the SEAC could always present at public comment as well as submit a letter to members. A motion was made for Megan Ashburn to compose a letter to send to the school board requesting the elimination of dedicated seclusion rooms at the elementary schools. A motion was made and seconded and the majority of voting members voted in favor. Megan Ashburn will write a letter.

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

Barbara Newman, Parent Support and Information Center, shared that the PCIS office has moved into the Plaza Annex room 31. Lori Bridges and Barbara Newman are submitting a grant application through DOE to publish literature and present workshops for parents and high school students. These workshops will share resources for post-secondary transitions. The PSIC is staying busy answering parents' questions, attending IEP meetings, and helping families navigate the special education process.

e. **OOA: Meredith Hobson –** No report

5. SEAC Business

6. Membership Report given above

7. Announcements

Megan Ashburn asked for announcements. As there were none, Megan Ashburn shared her new role at Virginia Wesleyan University at the Center for Neurodiversity and Career Development. Members were given pamphlets about this new program.

8. Adjourned meeting at **11:05.**

Dawn Candia made a motion to adjourn, it was seconded and the meeting ended at 11:05.