Ouachita Parish School System

Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)

Meeting Minutes
Date: February 26, 2026
Time: 12:00pm - 1:00pm
Location: Student Support Services

The meeting opened with a roll call for attendance. Those present: Jennifer L. Brinson, Angela Westerburg, Christina Hemphill, Hope Miller, Ellie Hilton, and Janet Bentley. Minutes from the December 18, 2025 meeting were reviewed.

Key Points Discussed:

- **Proposed Final Meeting Date Change:**
  By team consensus, the meeting originally scheduled for Thursday, May 14 has been moved up to Thursday, May 7.

- **Transition Fair:** The annual Transition Fair was held on Thursday, February 12, 2026. This event is designed for juniors, seniors, and their families to explore the various resources available for life after graduation.

- **Guidelines for Seclusion and Physical Restraint:**
  Acknowledged the Ouachita Parish School System 2025-2026 completion of the Policy Committee review and update of Guidelines for use of Seclusion and Physical Restraint with Exceptional Students, specifically the integration of "approved physical restraint" definitions and mandatory reporting timelines.
  Guidelines for Use of Seclusion and Physical Restraint 25-26.docx
    - The team discussed that the updated version was now available on the Ouachita Parish School Board website under Special Education Services in the Student Support Services Department section.

- **Parental Feedback:**
    - **Transition Support for Students with Disabilities (SWD)**
        - Discussion continued regarding the transition between school levels (Elementary to Middle; Middle to High). Parents emphasized that these periods remain 'overwhelming' for families, reinforcing the need for more robust transition support.

- **Professional Development & Training**
    - Continued concerns were raised regarding the consistency of training for both instructional and support staff.
        - **Professional Development (PD) Update** The February 17 PD day was postponed due to weather-related student attendance. We are now looking at **May and August of the next school year** as potential dates to provide this support for our special education and general education teachers. I will update the team once these dates are officially approved.

- **Pre-K Outreach & Distribution Plan**
    - We have finalized the distribution of Pre-K enrollment forms, screening clinic flyers, and brochures to pediatric offices, walk-in clinics, urgent care, and community programs.
    - **Action Item:**
        - Each member present agreed to distribute materials to at least 5 locations.
        - **Materials:** I have brochures ready for pickup. We are waiting on flyers to be printed (2–3 days max). I will email a follow-up once they arrive so you can pick up both at once if that is more convenient.

- **Adjournment and Next Meeting:**
  Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 7, 2026 12:00-1:00
  The meeting was adjourned.