



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

**September 7, 2023
FCPS Central Office Complex, Bldg. A**

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Amy Hunter. Members in attendance were Megan Burnham, Amanda Hazlehurst, Amy Hunter, Marilyn McCombe, Ryan Perry, and Mandi Wooten. Consulting members Randy Corpening and Hailey Schlechta were also present. This meeting was livestreamed via a link on the SEAC page of the FCPS1.org website.

The March meeting minutes were approved unanimously on a motion by Ms. McCombe and seconded by Ms. Wooten.

Ms. Hunter shared the following list of members who had expressed an interest in serving as officers: Amy Hunter—Chair; Megan Burnham—Vice Chair; Marilyn McCombe—Secretary. Ms. Hazlehurst moved that this slate of officers be elected. Ms. McCombe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There was no public comment.

Mr. Corpening gave a presentation entitled, "Overview of Special Education Services and Staff in Fauquier County Schools." He cited the state regulations that govern special education and recommended that parents refer to the resources on VDOE's website for additional information: <https://www.doe.virginia.gov/programs-services/special-education/information-for-families>. He gave an overview of the evaluation and IEP processes. Of the 10,839 students enrolled in the county as of 8/30/23, 1775 (16.3%) have IEPs. This is an increase of about 100 students with IEPs over last Spring. These students are identified in the following categories for their primary disabilities: Autism—211; Developmental Delay—140; Emotional Disturbance—68; Hearing Impairment—18; Intellectual Disability—84; and Other Health Impairment—461.

In her Chairman's report, Ms. Hunter thanked Mr. Corpening and his staff for setting up the new livestream. She announced that anyone who would like to receive SEAC updates, including meeting agendas and minutes, should email her at seac@fcps1.org. Other SEAC-related questions or concerns can also be sent to that email address. She mentioned that Public Comment at SEAC meetings is encouraged. Public comment may be made in-person or in writing and must identify the individual at magisterial district (if you are unsure of your magisterial district, she can send you a map or you can list your street address and she will replace it with the correct district name). General parent input is always welcome via the SEAC email but will not be read at a meeting or treated as public comment if the individual does not wish to be identified. Ms. Hunter informed the SEAC that she presented the 2022-23 Annual Report to the School Board on August 28 and that the Board is expected to vote on the 2023-24 SEAC membership at its September meeting. Finally, Ms. Hunter gave an update on the Virginia State SEAC's activities where she is the Region 4 (Northern Virginia) Parent Representative and a member of the Executive Committee. At the July meeting, the SSEAC focused on dispute resolution procedures and ways that VDOE can provide more information about issues arising in these disputes—the vast majority of which are subject to sealed settlements; special education staffing; funding for private day schools and regional programs; and making State SEAC meetings more accessible to parents around the state. The next SSEAC meeting is September 28-29.

In his Special Education Director's report, Mr. Corpening shared with the SEAC on behalf of Deputy Superintendent Brill that FCPS administration would like to move the FCPS Disability Awareness Month from October to March in order to consolidate several disability-related awareness events held during the year throughout the county. This will also allow more time during the school year for planning. Ms. Hunter noted that the SEAC looks forward to working with FCPS staff in developing plans and providing resources for the activities in March. She also reiterated the SEAC's recommendation that the theme be changed to "Choose to Include" from "More Alike than Different, which was used in previous years. Mrs. Hunter welcomed Superintendent Warner to the meeting.

Dr. Schlechta gave the Parent Resource Center report. Dr. Schlechta has attended several back-to-school nights and has spoken with over 100 families to date. The first PRC workshop of the year was on the Virginia IEP portal, which was attended by 35 families. The portal is an add-on feature of Virginia IEP, and its capabilities, as well as the ability to hold IEP meeting with online participation by parents and other team members has dramatically improved IEP meeting attendance. The September workshop on Diploma Options was held the night before the SEAC meeting, and Dr. Schlechta will give a re-cap of that event in her October report. She is planning to

attend the “Connect for Success” conference for PRC representatives from around the state later this month.

Under Old Business, Ms. Hunter pointed out that there are still vacancies on the SEAC and encouraged committee members to reach out, and anyone interested to contact her. Ms. Hunter was asked if A Place to Be had been contacted about possibly doing a Disability Awareness Month program this year, and Mrs. Hunter responded that she is awaiting a returned call from their staff.

Under New Business, all SEAC members confirmed that they have attended a PEATC SEAC training event, and they were given the “SEAC Guide” publication. Ms. Hunter updated the SEAC on the fact that American Sign Language I and II are currently being offered with a portion of the online classes being synchronous with the teacher. ASL III is also being offered but is currently asynchronous.

SEAC members were each asked to identify priority issues that they would like to have addressed by speakers during the coming school year. The following issues were mentioned by SEAC Members. Ms. Hunter will use this list and the list in the Annual Report when identifying topics and speakers for upcoming meetings:

- Assistive Technology Options and Use of Technology in Special Education Classrooms
- Update on Implementation of the Virginia Literacy Act in Fauquier County, including ELA Curriculum in General Education at All Levels
- General Update on N2Y Implementation at All Levels (including a progress update on the implementation in all three high schools), and an Explanation of How N2Y is Adapted for Students with Multiple Disabilities, Including Those with Vision Impairments
- Implications of Various Diploma Options, and an Explanation of the VESOL Standards and the Newly Implemented VAAP Testing
- Virginia Tiered System of Supports (VTSS) and How It Is Implemented for Students with Disabilities (including academic interventions, SEL instruction, and discipline procedures)
- Information about “I’m Determined” Including Training/Conference Opportunities for Students, Parents and Staff

For reference, the following topics identified by the SEAC in the 2022-23 Annual Report as being of interest for future presentations:

- Overview of the Special Education Structure and Process in Fauquier County Schools at the County and School Levels
- Progress on the Inclusive Practices Initiative, and Inclusion of Students with Intellectual Disabilities

- Augmentative and Alternative Communication: Including and Supporting Students with Severe Speech or Hearing Impairments
- Update on VESOL-Aligned Curriculum for High School Students on the VAAP

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 pm following approval of a motion by Marilyn McCombe that was seconded by Ryan Perry.

Prepared by:
Marilyn McCombe
Secretary

DRAFT



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

**October 5, 2023
FCPS Central Office Complex, Bldg. A**

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chair Amy Hunter. Members in attendance were Amanda Hazlehurst, Amy Hunter, Megan Monnahan (formerly Burnham), and Ryan Perry. Marilyn McCombe and Mandi Wooten were absent due to a work conflict and family illness, respectively. Consulting member Randy Corpening was also present. This meeting was livestreamed via a link on the SEAC page of the FCPS1.org website.

The September meeting minutes were approved unanimously on a motion by Ms. Monnahan and seconded by Mr. Perry.

There was no public comment.

Presentation:

Ms. Guzman, Student Services Supervisor, gave a presentation entitled, "Virginia Tiered System of Supports (VTSS) and the Interface with Special Education." There were technical difficulties so the presentation was paused while the ITRT made adjustments. After a brief pause, Ms. Guzman continued with a brief recap of the slides that were presented prior to the SEAC realizing that the audio on the livestream was not working correctly.

MTSS: Multi-Tiered System of Supports

- Work with Special Education as a collaboration among all staff
- Based on best practices, high quality instruction for all students
- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) for all learners
- Response to Intervention (RTI) and Tier 2 supports for student struggling to access general education

RTI: Response to Intervention:

- School tries increased Tier 2 interventions and monitors for 4-6 weeks
- If there is progress, then back to Tier 1 supports and monitoring

- If no progress, may move to child study or may continue with Tier 2 interventions at increased frequency or duration

Questions/Discussion:

- Do parents have access?
 - Yes, parents are invited to be part of the process and all data is shared with parents.
- What is the process if a parent requests a child study meeting?
 - Child Study Team often refers to RTI data to support and inform the team as they work through the child study process and decision-making.
- Who is involved in the RTI process? Are special education teachers involved?
 - This depends on the situation and areas of concern being addressed.
- How are students in program classrooms included in schoolwide PBIS efforts?
 - Some schools are better at execution, but all schools are working toward inclusive engagement.

Chairman's Report:

Mrs. Hunter thanked Ms. Guzman for her presentation. She followed this with a report on the State SEAC meeting, which was held September 28-29. SSEAC speakers included Brittany Everett with the state Council on Higher Education who spoke about barriers to higher education for students with disabilities. Andrew Greenwich, who oversees Virginia IEP, discussed his office's work to strengthen the features of that system. He noted that it is currently used by 116 school divisions. Colleges and universities in Virginia are now training students on the system. New upgrades include a dashboard with compliance information including teacher caseloads. State SEAC members' concerns centered around the parent interface. Mr. Greenwich explained that this is an "add-on", outside of his office's purview. SSEAC members pushed back, saying that anything connected to Virginia IEP should have some level of oversight for compliance and parent involvement by VDOE. SSEAC members also raised concerns about the process for providing partial parental consent via Virginia IEP; some school divisions are apparently giving parents misinformation about the impact of partial consent (saying that partial consent would void the rest of the IEP). Hank Millward, of VDOE's Family Engagement office gave the VDOE update for Samantha Hollins since she was with OSEP representatives in town for a review. The next SSEAC meeting is December 6-8.

Special Education Director's Report

In his report, Mr. Corpening explained that the ransomware attack on the county's computer systems has caused interruptions with the Virginia IEP system in the county. He assured the committee that student data is protected, however access to IEPs is currently unavailable. Staff are working with paper documents and will be reaching out to parents as needed until the system is fully operational again.

The county has recognized that transition is an area where more can be accomplished. Administration is currently discussing how to best begin the transition process at the elementary school level giving students the longest lead time to prepare for post-secondary success. Discussions at earlier grade levels will be more basic but will start the dialogue with parents much earlier.

Parent Resource Center Report

Mrs. Hunter gave the PRC report in Dr. Schlechta's absence. Dr. Schlechta has made back-to-school night visits at CH Ritchie and HM Pearson where she spoke with 54 parents. She attended the Connect for Success symposium in September learned a great deal about how to support families whose students have IEPs and 504 plans. She met with representatives from different counties and learned about what would be beneficial for Fauquier County public schools. Much of the conversation at the conference was focused on resources on autism and intellectual disabilities for families. The September PRC online workshop had 36 attendees. Parents' primary interest was the applied studies diploma, which will be addressed more thoroughly at the Transitions and Disabilities Fair in March.

The October PRC workshop, entitled "Understanding Special Education," will be led by Love Kingsbury from PEATC on October 11. Dr. Schlechta will visit school fall festivals and is currently planning for the March 9 fair, which will be held at FHS in the multi-purpose room and cafeteria area. She is finalizing the list of organizations and presenters to be invited, and invitations will go out in October.

Old Business

Ms. Hunter expressed concern about having SEAC representation from all areas of the county. SEAC members identified counties they are affiliated with (residence or school), and it appears that Lee District schools may not have representation. There are still vacant seats on the SEAC and anyone interested should email SEAC@FCPS1.org for more information. Members also discussed tentative topics for presentations at upcoming SEAC meetings:

November	"I'm Determined"
January	N2Y and Technology in Special Ed Classrooms
February	Update on ELA and Virginia Literacy Act Implementation
March	First-person experiences of individuals with disabilities

Additional issues to be addressed throughout the year include Special Education Budget (March), Restraint and Seclusion Report, FCPS Inclusive Practices Plan Development, and March 2024 Disability Awareness Month.

New Business

SEAC members discussed issues and activities of interest. Ms. Hazlehurst reported on the Auburn special education teachers' plans to attend the Aspire Educators Symposium being put on by "I'm Determined" November 6-7 in Virginia Beach. Ms. Monnahan raised the issue of establishing SEAC excellence awards. She volunteered to lead to initiative and will report back to the committee with recommended next steps. Mr. Corpening suggested reaching out to the School Board representative to the SEAC but was uncertain who that individual is at this time. Mrs. Hunter will follow up with the School Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm following approval of a motion by Megan Monnahan that was seconded by Ryan Perry.

Prepared by:
Amanda Hazlehurst
Acting Secretary



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

**January 4, 2024, 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 pm by Chair Amy Hunter. Members in attendance were Amanda Hazlehurst, Amy Hunter, Megan Monnahan, Ashley Menwer, Ryan Perry, and Anna Williams. Marilyn McCombe and Mandi Wooten were both absent. Student Services Executive Director Nicholas Napolitano served as a consulting member. Consulting members Randy Corpening and Haley Schlechta were absent. The meeting was livestreamed via a link on the SEAC page of the FCPS1.org website.

The November 2023 minutes were approved unanimously on a motion by Ms. Monnahan that was seconded by Mr. Perry.

There was no public comment.

Presentation:

Angie Gum, Special Education Supervisor, and Kristen Ott, Assessment Resource Teacher, gave a presentation titled "Update on N2Y Curriculum Implementation." Jennifer Rockefeller, who was scheduled to address "Assistive Technology Use in ID and Autism Classrooms, and an Overview of Assistive Technology Services in Fauquier County Public Schools" was unable to attend the meeting.

- N2Y was adopted for use in all elementary and middle school ID/AUT classrooms for the 2022-23SY. It was adopted for use in the high school classrooms beginning this school year (2023-24).
- Ms. Gum said that the goal is to have all ID/AUT classrooms using the N2Y curriculum for an average of 70% of the school day. Currently, only 20% of teachers in high school ID/AUT classrooms are using the curriculum for any part of the day. Usage is higher in elementary and middle schools, which began using the program a year earlier than the high schools.
- All teachers responsible for implementing N2Y received training by the curriculum publisher at the beginning of the year. FCPS special ed department staff, including the behavior specialists, are providing ongoing training in all schools. Ms. Ott said training is being provided to staff members who were hired after the initial training, staff who have been trained but need additional training/refreshers, and staff who need support follow-up support since beginning to implement N2Y in their classrooms. A second large-scale training is being planned for the near future.
- The curriculum continues to evolve with the addition of new features based on user feedback. A significant improvement is the availability of all the units for the entire school year, rather than limited access to rotating units with the removal of previous material. This change allows teachers to review previously taught material with students and have access to a much broader

range of lessons. However, the exponential increase in available material has been overwhelming for some teachers and has added to the complexity of training.

- Getting teachers to embrace and utilize N2Y has been a slow process. Before N2Y, there was no county-approved curriculum for these classes in the elementary and middle schools. At the high school level, there was no county-wide curriculum in place until a book-based curriculum was adopted three years ago. When that curriculum came up for review, the decision was made to switch to high schools to N2Y, making the ID/AUT classroom materials consistent across all grade levels. Staff who have been using their own materials have been slow to implement N2Y in their classrooms.
- SEAC members raised several issues regarding accountability, fidelity, and measuring student progress. Questions included: who monitors? how are teachers held accountable for implementation? Is this reflected on their evaluation?
 - Ms. Gum, and later Mr. Napolitano, shared that the special education administrators in the central office do not evaluate teachers. They are tasked with programing, training, and supporting the roll-out, but they are not responsible for ensuring that teachers implement the curriculum. That responsibility falls on the building supervisors/AP.
 - Building-level administrators are responsible for evaluating teacher performance
- On behalf of SEAC, Ms. Hunter requested an update by May regarding teacher implementation/usage. This information will be included in the SEAC annual report, along with recommendations based on that input. Since the curriculum was approved by the school board, the board should be informed if it is not being utilized as planned.

Chairman's Report

Ms. Hunter welcomed Ms. Menwer and Ms. Williams to their first meeting as newly appointed SEAC members. Both were approved by the school board at its December 2023 meeting. Ms. Hunter shared information about PEATC's SEAC training, and all committee members confirmed that they have completed the training.

Ms. Hunter asked about the status of Disability Awareness Month. The SEAC had previously requested to be part of the planning. Ms. Hunter has reached out to senior staff but has not heard back. Mr. Napolitano said he would follow up.

Ms. Hunter inquired about a School Board Member Representative. In previous years, a school board member has been assigned to the committee and attended regularly. Mr. Napolitano is going to follow up with the School Board Clerk.

Mrs. Hunter requested that a SEAC member begin attending the PRC events so they can report about any parent concerns raised during the training that the SEAC may wish to address. It is also valuable for SEAC members to learn as much as possible about special education in FCPS.

Special Education Director's Report

Mr. Corpening was not in attendance.

Parent Resource Center Report

Dr. Schlecta was not in attendance.

Old Business

- A. February Presentation—Ms. Hunter mentioned that she is looking for an individual with a disability to present at the February meeting as a lead-in to Disability Awareness Month.
- B. FCPS Inclusive Practices Planning Process—Ms. Hunter stated that the SEAC needs to follow-up with FCPS administration regarding the status of this process, which was a key element of the Inclusive Practices Report and Plan that FCPS submitted to the state.
- C. March 9 Transition and Disability Fair—March 9, 10:30-3:30 at FHS. SEAC members should plan to attend if possible. At the February meeting, SEAC members will sign up to staff the committee's table at the event. Ms. Hunter will update the SEAC brochure.
- D. Ms. Monnahan gave a brief report on a draft proposal to implement an awards program for teachers and staff. This is a new proposal that Mr. Corpening had suggested should be discussed with a school board representative.
- E. Upcoming meetings: February 1, Disability Awareness Month Lead-In; March 14 (2nd Thursday)—Special Education Budget & Update on Literacy Instruction; NO MEETING IN APRIL; May 2—Policy and Annual Report Discussion.

New Business

Ms. Hunter proposed that the SEAC schedule an additional meeting in June. After discussing the year-end schedule for schools, the committee tentatively scheduled an additional meeting for May 30 at the regular meeting time and location. Mr. Napolitano will check on the availability of the meeting room for that date.

Members had no items to add during the member roundtable.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm following a motion made by Ms. Hazlehurst and seconded by Mr. Perry.

Submitted by:
Amanda Hazlehurst
Acting Secretary



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

**February 1, 2024, 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 pm by Chair Amy Hunter. Members in attendance were Amanda Hazlehurst, Amy Hunter, Marilyn McCombe, Ashley Menwer, Ryan Perry, and Anna Williams. Megan Monnahan and Mandi Wooten were absent. Nicholas Napolitano, Executive Director of Student Services and Special Education, and PRC Coordinator Haley Schlecta attended as consulting members. In addition, School Board Chair Susan Pauling, Deputy Superintendent Meaghan Brill and Director of Instruction Whitney Boring attended the meeting. The meeting was livestreamed via a link on the SEAC page of the FCPS1.org website.

The January minutes were approved unanimously on a motion by Ms. Menwer that was seconded by Ms. McCombe.

There was no public comment.

Presentation:

Mr. Napolitano discussed the staff changes in the Special Education Department, including the retirement of Special Education Director Randy Corpening and the open Special Education Instructional Supervisor position previously held by Ms. Ranghelli. Mr. Napolitano reported that the new supervisor will be announced at the February 12 School Board meeting. Interviews for the new director will begin next Thursday, February 8, and the plan is to announce a new director at the March School Board meeting.

Chairman's Report

Ms. Hunter reported that an application for SEAC membership has been submitted to the School Board by Katie Jefferson. It will be considered by the board at the February meeting and, if approved, Ms. Jefferson will be on the committee by our next meeting.

Ms. Hunter and Ms. Hazlehurst have met with Ms. Yonkey (Student, Family, and Community Engagement Supervisor), Ms. Yelland (Communications Director), Ms. Guzman (Student Services Supervisor), and Dr. Brill (Deputy Superintendent) regarding plans for March Disability Awareness Month. Details will be discussed under Old Business.

Ms. Hunter reminded everyone that the application deadline for "I'm Determined" is February 11. The PRC and Transitions Coordinator sent out an email reminder to families in English and Spanish.

Special Education Director's Report

Ms. Boring provided an update on “All In Virginia” – specifically how the program impacts students with disabilities. She explained that any student who takes SOLs is included, regardless of their disability status. All-In started in January 2024 and will run through the next school year. Tutoring is provided during the school day and does not interfere with students’ IEP services.

Parent Resource Center Report

Dr. Schlecta shared that this is her last month before she goes on maternity leave. The next PRC workshop addresses Support for Multilingual Students. Mr. Spahr will be responsible for the PRC while Dr. Schlecta is on leave and will coordinate the Transitions Fair on March 9. So far, 30 organizations have signed up for tables. Workshops will include: “Turning 18 in Virginia” (VDOE), “Collaborating with Schools” (PEATC), and “Transition Services” (DARS). Attendees will receive welcome bags containing donated items. Aetna was a major sponsor of the bags. Advertising is underway. Mr. Spahr is working on pilot elementary and middle school transition programs focused on early career planning.

Old Business

- A. FCPS March Disability Awareness Month Update—Theme: “Choose to Include”
 - a. Poster Contest—Ms. Hazlehurst reported that all of the information has been shared with the elementary schools and submissions are due to each school office by February 16. Schools must then forward the entries to Auburn MS by February 19. Winners will be announced at the March School Board meeting.
 - b. Updated Resource List—Ms. Hunter is updating and annotating the resource list distributed in 2019, which will be provided to all school librarians.
 - c. Crazy Sock Day (March 21)—This will be a division-wide event to celebrate inclusion and highlight Disability Awareness Month.
 - d. There will not be a full-blown middle school or high school program this year, but in October, FCPS will observe Virginia Disability History Awareness Month, which will focus on informing students in all grade levels about disability history by providing resources to teachers and sharing information at the district level.
- B. March 9 Transition and Disability Fair
 - a. The SEAC will have a table, and the majority of SEAC members plan to attend.
 - b. Ms. Hunter distributed a draft update of the SEAC brochure. Ms. Williams moved that the SEAC approve the updated brochure. The motion was seconded by Mr. Perry and passed unanimously. Mr. Napolitano offered to coordinate printing of color brochures.
- C. Upcoming meetings:
 - a. March 14 (2nd Thursday)—Special Education Budget & Update on Literacy Instruction
 - b. NO MEETING IN APRIL
 - c. May 2—Policy and Annual Report Discussion
 - d. May 30—Finalize Annual Report
 - e. A motion was made by Ms. Hunter and seconded by Ms. McCombe that the two May meetings be “Work Sessions” and that they will not be livestreamed to allow for a more interactive format among the SEAC members. The meetings will still be open to the public in-person. The motion was approved unanimously.

New Business

- A. Ms. Hunter asked members to email any recommendations for the resource list to her.
- B. Member Roundtable—Ms. McCombe shared The Arc of North Central Virginia’s 2023 Annual Report, which was just released. She shared that The Arc offers free family consultations through

its ArcConnect program and encouraged everyone to share this information with families of children or adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Submitted by:
Marilyn McCombe
Secretary



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

**March 14, 2024, 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 pm by Chair Amy Hunter. Members in attendance were Amy Hunter, Katie Jefferson, Marilyn McCombe, Megan Monnahan, Ryan Perry, and Anna Williams. Amanda Hazlehurst, Ashley Menwer, and Mandi Wooten were absent. Interim Special Education Director Angie Gum and Executive Director of Student Services and Special Education Nicholas Napolitano attended as consulting members. In addition, School Board Chair Susan Pauling, Director of Instruction Whitney Boring, and Language Arts Supervisor and Title I Coordinator Kathy Crane attended from FCPS. The meeting was livestreamed via a link on the SEAC page of the FCPS1.org website.

Mrs. McCombe moved that the agenda be approved, and Mrs. Monnahan seconded. Ms. Gum requested that her Director's Report be moved to the beginning of the meeting with her presentation. There was no objection, and the agenda was approved as amended. The February meeting minutes were approved unanimously on a motion by Ms. Monnahan, which was seconded by Ms. McCombe.

There was no public comment.

Special Education Director's Report:

Ms. Gum announced that FCPS has hired Amanda Osburn as an Interim Special Education Supervisor. Ms Osburn has been an educational diagnostician in FCPS.

2024-25 FCPS Special Education Annual Plan/Part B Flow-Through Budget:

Ms. Gum presented the 2024-25 FCPS Special Education Annual Plan/Part B Flow-Through Budget for the SEAC's review. These are the federal funds that flow through the state to the local school divisions to pay for special education costs associated with IDEA. The plan was presented as an informational item to the School Board on March 11, which was necessary prior to the SEAC meeting due to changes in both School Board and SEAC meeting schedules this year. Technical difficulties prevented Ms. Gum from presenting the plan on screen in the meeting room, but the SEAC members were able to view printed copies. An electronic version of the plan will be distributed with the minutes.

The plan lists the following budget items that will be covered by these funds:

- Four special education teacher positions
- 27 instructional assistant positions in middle and high schools
- Teacher training and professional development for the Lindamood Bell Tier 3 reading intervention
- \$5000 to cover copier and other equipment and office expenses

- Extended school year projected costs
- \$6000 to cover assistive technology, as well as related reading and math program software and materials
- Professional development for special education teachers, instructional assistants supporting students with disabilities, occupational and physical therapists, and a special education supervisor

In addition, the plan provides for a proportionate set-aside of \$60,113 to fund services for students enrolled in private schools and homeschoolers with disabilities. Ms. Gum explained that these funds are used for speech-language services. Ms. Jefferson asked about the reasoning behind limiting these services to speech. Ms. Gum said that was something that she would look into for next year.

Update on Implementation of the Virginia Literacy Act in Fauquier County:

Ms. Crane explained the complexity of implementing the VLA in Fauquier with so many factors in play, many of which are outside of FCPS's control, including adoption of the new SOLs. One significant change announced recently is that the law will only be implemented for K-5 next year. Also, individual student reading plans will only be implemented in grades K-3 who are considered at-risk. Students with IEPs will also have reading plans, but it is not yet clear how these plans will interface. A group met earlier this month to recommend a new core literacy curriculum for the county. Members were nearly unanimous in their selection of HMH, which is available for parents and community members to review. The proposed adoption will then go to the School Board for approval.

Mrs. Hunter noted that HMH also has a separate Tier 3 intervention that is IA-based called Amira, with a character who reads with individual students on their devices. Data is collected on every aspect of the child's reading, and the teacher can use that data to track progress and target interventions. Ms. Crane pointed out that decisions on Tier 3 interventions are made by the Special Education Department and that Amira is still waiting approval by VDOE, which expects to complete those reviews by the end of the summer. Lindamood Bell, which Fauquier currently uses as a Tier 3 intervention, has been approved, so FCPS can continue to use it this summer for Extended School Year (ESY) services.

The VLA requires extensive training for teachers. Every school will have a reading specialist with nine months of training. All teachers and instructional staff will have VDOE training over the summer. There will also be a new assessment tool called the VALLSS, which will replace the PALS for students in grades K-3. It will be piloted for 4th-8th graders in selected divisions, but Fauquier will not be in that cohort.

SEAC members had several questions for Ms. Crane, including a question about the interface of IMSE and the HMH. Ms. Crane reported that IMSE strategies that teachers have been trained on will be very applicable in implementing HMH. Ms. Monnahan pointed out that IMSE also has a TIER 3 intervention, which FCPS is not currently using.

Ms. McCombe thanked Ms. Crane for her annual updates to the SEAC on literacy issues, especially given the importance of high-quality Tier I instruction for struggling readers with disabilities.

Chairman's Report

Ms. Hunter welcomed the SEAC's newest member, Katie Jefferson, whose membership was approved by the School Board in February. She congratulated Ryan Perry on his new position with Loudoun County Schools and his plans to be married this summer. As a result, Mr. Perry will not be returning to the SEAC in 2024-25. Also, today Mrs. Hunter received the resignation of Mandi Wooten via email. Ms. Wooten is unable to complete her term. Her resignation is effective immediately.

Now is the time to submit SEAC membership applications for 2024-25. Mrs. Hunter distributed forms and will attach a blank form with the minutes. She asked members to return them to her by the next meeting to give time for recruiting to fill vacancies.

Mrs. Hunter congratulated the winners of the Elementary School Poster Contest winners, who were recognized at the last School Board meeting. The individual winner was Kelci Hollins from PB Smith, and the class winner was Mrs. Reder's Kindergarten class at Greenville.

Parent Resource Center Report:

Mr. Napolitano reported that the FCPS Transition and Disability Fair held at Fauquier High School was very well attended and that the feedback has been positive. PRC coordinator, Dr. Schlecta, had a baby girl on February 29 and is expected to return to work in late May. Finally, Mr. Napolitano reported that the Superintendent's Annual Budget, which has been submitted to the School Board, includes increased funding for special education including the addition of a diagnostician and two social worker positions.

State SEAC Report:

Mrs. Hunter, who serves as the Region 4 Parent Representative to the State SEAC, reported on the meeting held March 7-8 in Richmond. This was the final meeting of the SSEAC's year, and the members and officers will assume their positions at the July meeting. The committee will also finalize its annual report in July for presentation to the Virginia Board of Education in September. At the March meeting, the SSEAC heard a presentation from the VCU Center for Family Involvement about its Family Navigator program which matches families of children with disabilities to and experienced parent who is the same as the family in whatever way is most helpful given the circumstances (e.g., single parent, region-specific, same language/culture).

The Family Engagement and Community Outreach Subcommittee and the Policy Subcommittee held a joint meeting with Deborah Johnson, VDOE Specialist for Intellectual Disabilities, to discuss the new VAAP Tool that will be used beginning in July. Ms. Johnson shared that implementation guidance is currently being written and will be sent to school divisions very soon. VDOE is also developing an online training for families, which will take place in early June. PEATC is developing its own parent resources and training as well.

The following were other priority issues discussed by the SSEAC:

- Request for access to a summary of the issues in filed State Complaints and Due Process Filings so that the SSEAC can identify trends in the issues that parents are raising with the state.
- Development of resources for Local SEACs that will be available on the VDOE website.
- Support for a licensing requirement that all new teachers have instruction on inclusive practices, IEP requirements, and accommodations.

Old Business

- The SEAC will hold two work sessions, on **May 4 and May 30**, to draft and approve the committee's Annual Report to the School Board. These work sessions will be open to the public and there will be a period for public comment. However, the work sessions will not be livestreamed. In preparation, SEAC members are asked to review the 2022-23 Annual Report and come prepared to discuss this year's accomplishments, activities for next year (priorities and presentation topic), and policy recommendations. Please email a brief summary of any new policy recommendations to Mrs. Hunter (seac@fcps1.org) prior the meeting.

- Disability Awareness Month
 - Elementary Poster Contest—Dr. Warner went to both winners' schools to congratulate them. The individual winner was Kelci Hollins from PB Smith, and the class winner was Mrs. Reder's Kindergarten class at Greenville.
 - Resource List—The list has been sent to all school librarians. It is also posted on the SEAC webpage.
 - Crazy Sock Day is scheduled for March 21, which is World Down Syndrome Day. All FCPS students, staff, and administrators will be encouraged to wear crazy or mismatched socks.

New Business

- New SEAC member Katie Jefferson introduced herself and shared that she is a speech-language pathologist. She has a daughter with dyslexia in Fauquier County, and she is on leave from Prince William Public Schools to focus on union negotiations on behalf of teachers in that county.
- Members were reminded to submit their completed applications for 2024-25 SEAC membership to Mrs. Hunter, and to encourage anyone interested in membership to contact her through the SEAC email address.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. on a motion by Mrs. McCombe and seconded by Ms. Monnahan.

Submitted by:

Marilyn McCombe
Vice Chair and Acting Secretary



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

**May 2, 2024, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
FCPS Central Office Complex, Bldg. A
430 Shirley Avenue, Warrenton**

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chair Amy Hunter. Members in attendance were Amanda Hazlehurst, Amy Hunter, Katie Jefferson, Marilyn McCombe, Megan Monnahan, Ryan Perry, and Anna Williams. Interim Special Education Director Angie Gum and Executive Director of Student Services and Special Education Nicholas Napolitano attended as consulting members. School Board Chair Susan Pauling also attended the meeting. The meeting was not live-streamed as it was a work session to discuss the 2023-24 Annual Report.

Ms. Monnahan moved that the agenda be approved. Mrs. McCombe seconded the motion, which was approved. The minutes of the March meeting were approved without objection.

There was no public comment.

Chair's Report:

Mrs. Hunter raised the concern that Ms. Gum is currently the only special education administrator in the central office, due to a supervisor being on medical leave, a vacant supervisor position, and the recently hired interim supervisor working to wrap up the duties of her previous position. Mrs. Hunter proposed sending a letter to the School Board relating these concerns. However, Ms. Gum and Mr. Napolitano reported that they have made an offer to fill the one open position and expect the supervisor who is on medical leave to return by the end of the month.

SEAC members agreed not to send a letter at this time given the latest developments, but members discussed concerns of a growing community and high caseloads in the special ed. department. Discussion about another supervisor position was brought up to aid in meeting the needs of students, families, and IEP teams. Members bought up the importance of maintaining appropriate staffing to prevent legal and liability concerns.

Susan Pauling, School Board chairperson indicated that keeping the School Board aware of SEAC suggestions twice yearly would be helpful. She also mentioned that the Policy Committee meets on the 3rd Tuesdays at 9:30 am, following Personnel Committee meetings at 8:30 am.

Special Education Director's Report:

April was Autism Awareness month. A flyer was distributed to all schools with activities to build awareness and inclusion. Mrs. Hunter mentioned the plan to observe Disability History Awareness Month in October.

Discussion of the 2023-24 Annual Report:

SEAC members reviewed the 2022-23 Annual Report as a template for creating the 2023-24 report. Ms. Monnahan agreed to draft the language regarding literacy instruction and interventions and send it to Mrs. Hunter. Mrs. Hunter will draft a report incorporating the comments of committee members for review at the work session on May 30. (A copy of that draft is attached with these minutes.). Following were issues raised during the committee discussion:

- The SEAC discussed ways to improve public engagement and feedback. Options discussed include a flyer including information about the PRC, SEAC, and PEATC to be distributed by the schools. The committee also discussed using a parent survey to identify areas of strength and weakness related to Special Education services. Ms. McCombe reported the SEAC has in the past used a similar survey tool and will attempt to utilize this as a templet for a new updated version. Ms. Menwer brought up concerns related to her and other parents' experiences with special education services at her base school. She expressed concerns that individuals' concerns are not being validated, and she would like to better address these individuals concerns at meetings.
- The Inclusive Practices Self-Assessment and Action Plan is being prioritized by Ms. Gum as well as by the SEAC. Co-teaching was specifically mentioned as a priority by Ms. Hazlehurst. The committee wants to emphasize the importance paraprofessionals in supporting inclusive practices. Currently, special education instructional assistants are grouped as tier 1, tier 2, and tier 3. The Tiered system identifies differences in the amount of care/assistance provided, and pay is reflected by the work. It is the position of the SEAC that the work of these "paraprofessionals" is vital to meet the needs of students and reduce stressors on teaching staff.
- New Membership applications are being accepted for the upcoming school year 2024-2025. We currently have two openings available on the SEAC.
- Mental Health and Social Emotional Learning is another focus of the SEAC, as students with disabilities experience a higher risk of mental health concerns. The current Social Emotional Learning program used is Second Steps by Peekapak, which has been used for the past four years. Ms. Williams expressed some concerns related to this programs' links to DEI and a lack of empirical data on the curriculum of this program. Ms. Hunter asked that the SEL be tabled for next year.
- The SEAC recommendation that each middle school has its own social worker has been successfully achieved this year.
- Members agreed that ASL instruction remains important, but that it is not realistic to request that ASL teachers be employed at all the high schools. The SEAC will encourage FCPS to increase the amount of time that students interact live with their online teacher and class.

Old Business:

The SEAC will meet in another work session on May 30 to finalize the annual report. Ms. Hunter will send out a draft report with the draft meeting minutes.

New Business:

The SEAC agreed to move its meetings to the 2nd Thursday of each month to avoid conflicting with the quarterly State SEAC meetings.

Adjourned:

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. following a motion by Ms. Monnahan that was seconded by Mrs. McCombe and approved unanimously.

Submitted by:

Anna Williams
Acting Secretary