

February Minutes:

Prince William County
Special Education Advisory Committee
2020-2021
February 16, 2021 7pm
Virtual meeting

Meeting ID: 923 7481 4793 Meeting Passcode: 576616

bit.ly/PWCS-SEAC

I. Opening of meeting:

Call to Order: Jaime Van Echo 1905

Approval of [January Minutes](#): KBY motion to approve by Beverly, seconded by Kristie

Citizen Time:

No citizen comment... closed at 1908

At every meeting of the SEAC, an opportunity is provided for visitors to make public comment. It is received without SEAC comment. The public comment is summarized in the SEAC meeting minutes. The SEAC is always looking for ideas and suggestions from students, parents and teachers that will improve the education of children with disabilities. The SEAC requests that any concerns expressed include general comments dealing with global issues rather than a specific comment dealing with a personal matter or situation. The Committee suggests that you address concerns about personal situations directly to the Office of Special Education. In accordance with HIPAA regulations, please refrain from using the names of students, teachers, or schools. Please use the comment box in the virtual meeting to identify your first and last name and magisterial district for the minutes.

II. Office of Special Education: Dr. Roper presenting SMORE news from around the division.

Dr. Roper advises that presenters for section III of agenda recently had 2nd dose of covid vaccine and are feeling very ill due to side effects and we can discuss rescheduling as they are unable to participate this evening.

www.smores.com/mnca7-monthly-magic

This is kindness week. AAC team is an amazing group of individuals... augmentative and alternative communication team and being virtual has not slowed down this team one bit. This team is doing an amazing job. Their

newsletter is linked in the smores newsletter.

The transition fair is also linked in here as well as the parents as partners conference.

Also, coming march 16-18 there will be a materials handout.

Kristie asks if you have to wait until the next time they are available to pick them up, however Dr Roper says you can request any time. It's easier for teachers since they can be sent via carrier but they are also delivering when needed. Dr Roper says their goal is to have the most amazing customer service they've ever had right now.

Debbie suggests to Dr Roper that she talk to high schools like Battlefield to have them help with her website to help with banners etc to improve her site.

Dr Roper is expressing concern that many students who receive services and have to receive X minutes a week will be short time due to the covid pandemic. The office of special education is working to come up with a plan to address this deficit appropriately. This will be considered make-up and not covid recovery services... a great example that Dr Roper used was as if 5 speech therapists were pregnant at the same time, they will make up the time upon their return. These students may qualify for covid recovery, compensatory, ESY, make-up services, no matter which, the services will look the same. The letter sent out will have an end date/an expiration date and families will have until that date to utilise those services which are owed. Point of contact will be both/either the student's school and/or the central office. Debbie asks don't we have an extra 15 minutes in each day for snow days? Ms Huebner explains that the calendar is actually extremely complicated and even more so due to covid and with this school year starting much later (sept 8th) that ate up much of the time. Also, some schools need double bus runs and some don't.

III. Information regarding Transition Services,

Mr. David Williams, Ed.S. Transition Supervisor: williamsd@pwcs.edu 703-791-8569

Alana Walmsley Administrative Coordinator walmislam@pwcs.edu 703-791-8319

See above

IV. Business:

- Subcommittee to Review and update By-Laws: Jaime Van Echo, Shelly Witte, Kristie Bowie-Young, Rhonda Tabor, discussion and needs. Review of Articles IV-VI.
[Working Document](#)

What is a regulation meeting per FOIA (freedom of information act) We need to notify the public within 2 to 5 days of a major meeting like one about budget for example... we need to fix the wording in Article VI under open meetings

Also, in public comment, it states that the chair will respond in writing to persons making public comment... do we want to keep this? Do we want to add via email when an email address is made available? We need to check the state level SEAC bylaws to see what it says.

- Subcommittee for SEAC Outreach and membership: Jaime Van Echo, Brandi Workman, Beverly Hicks, Yukiko Dove discussion and updates.

Yukiko suggests a screenshot of everyone to show us all looking happy and smiling on our zoom meeting. A screenshot was taken. Absences were discussed. We are only allowed 2 absences. Shelly suggests an email be sent out to the entire seac to remind everyone of the absence rule. Jaime did suggest grace due to covid. Tara, citizen, asks for a moment at the end as she's been applying to be

on the board for a while and would love to help fill a role.

- Response to the JLARC report on Special Education in Virginia.

<http://jlarc.virginia.gov/pdfs/summary/Rpt545Sum.pdf>

Members will be called on to voice their concerns, thoughts, ideas that will be received by the OSE at this time. The OSE may choose to respond to direct inquiries or reserve the option to document and respond to any specific concerns during the March SEAC meeting follow up.

Kristie expressed concern about the applied studies diploma as the jlarc report states that community colleges and 4 year universities will not accept iep degrees. Dr Roper says George Mason does have a program for iep students however FAFSA does not accept them so families have to pay up front.

Yukiko agrees with Kristie and says some parents don't seem to understand how the applied studies diploma can limit their future opportunities. Yukiko also talks about IEP quality and that in the jlarc report it states that about half of IEPs reviewed lacked academic or functional goals.

Beverly is glad we are taking another look at VAAP and that we are looking at consistency.

Debbie says on page 3 how it says that early decisions as in decisions in elementary school affects their diploma...there has to be a way to make parents not freak out. She thinks much of it does not apply to our county.

Shelly says she sees a trickle down effect with socioeconomics in gen ed and if it affects gen ed it affects sped as well.

Neither Rhonda nor Joi had any further commentary.

Jaime says we need to continue to hire well qualified and certified teachers for our students. The recommendations say that local seacs might receive annual summaries... and that schools be inclusive and allow sped students to participate which pwcs already does, we need to know about a parent ombudsman, vdoe may need to put out a comprehensive plan and she believes pwcs is already prepared for that

Dr Roper says that because we moved over VA IEP VDOE are monitoring. They are seeing good things!

- Updates on Parents as Partners/Transition Fair dates

Already addressed by Dr Roper, will be up on smores and on prc website

- SEPTA update

1. www.pwcsepta.org

Janice Soliven: March 11th is the next meeting, Dr Joni Johnson, put on your mask social emotional issues

Planning spring awards ceremony, nominations in march, virtual story times in planning

Working on a drive in movie as well

- Parent Resource Center: Rhonda Tabor

<https://bit.ly/PWCS-ParentResourceCenter>

Transition fair on March 20th and on parent resource center calendar and on prc page, if you have a

student age 14 or older, you will receive an email to sign up and it will be virtual, there will be a community partner page with over 20 vendors with little videos so they can still reach out to community

Parents as Partners will be on May 10th... parents will have over the summer to view presentations from transition fair and parents as partners and there will also be vendors as well

Family engagement series later this month talking about math, please check out the calendar on the prc calendar on the website

o New Business?

1. Specific questions regarding related services for next month's

presentation

Send to Jaime

2. Creation of Nominating Subcommittee:

a) Call for volunteers. If none, Chair will appoint.

b) Determine intent to continue to serve as officers.

c) Indicate which roles will need to be filled.

Debbie, Beverly and Yukiko

... citizen comment, Tara... she worked out missing time with a student and parent by working after school with one student. They got out at 1420 and she was contracted until 1500. That's how they worked out the missing time in that case. She also states she'd like to join the committee and wants to know exactly where to send her application. Jaime suggests that Tara be tenacious and send many emails to follow up on her application.

V. Member Time:

- o kristie Bowie-Young: Superintendent Representative ...no comment
- o Yukiko Dove- At-Large ... no comment
- o Beverly Hicks-Brentsville District ... no comment
- o Sarah Pitkin- Coles District ..absent
- o Deborah Tekempe-Gainesville District ... no comment
- o Angela Comisky- Neabsco District ...absent
- o Brandi Workman-Potomac District ...absent
- o Shelly Witte-Woodbridge District ...no comment
- o Consultant-Rhonda Tabor ...no comment
- o Consultant-Joi Funches :

Had a meeting today, talked about how to update and improve our seac page and talked about about posting meeting information in a table format. All minutes honda states we should check the FOIA regulations in regards to p meetings. Dr Roper states 3 years.

- o Jaime Van Echo-Superintendent Representative ...no comment
- o Vacant-Occoquan District (Justin Caron fill-in) ...absent
- o Vacant- Teacher Representative
- o Vacant-Superintendent Representative
- o Vacant-Superintendent Representative

VI. Closing

Motion for adjourn by Kristie

Seconded by Beverly

Meeting closed at 2046

The SEAC is organized and functions in accordance with state and federal requirements. The Committee's functions include the following: monthly meetings with the Director of the Office of Special Education; determining needs of children with disabilities within the county; developing priorities and strategies for meeting identified needs of children with disabilities; preparing and submitting an annual report to the Prince William County School Board.