

# Prince William County

## Special Education Advisory Committee

2020-2021

November 17, 2020 7pm

Virtual meeting

[bit.ly/PWCS-SEAC](https://bit.ly/PWCS-SEAC)

### **I. Opening of meeting:**

Call to Order: Jaime Van Echo

- Meeting opens at 1903

Approval of October Minutes:

- Beverly motioned to accept minutes, Kristie seconded, minutes accepted

Citizen Time:

- 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.
- Sandra Kern, Potomac District, happy to be through 1st quarter and concerned about starting 2nd quarter, struggling with online learning... hoping that SEAC will come forward for parents with a bold statement for parents/students who are struggling with online learning/canvas. Feels services aren't filled to the level necessary for all students online/virtually. She feels teachers have been "tremendous" with the tasks placed before them however. Thanks SEAC for giving parents the opportunity to speak out here as well. She feels children need these basic life skills like reading and writing so they can read a recipe, etc, to get through their daily lives.

- Tara Aqdas, Brentsville District, she has seen things from many different perspectives, knows teachers, knows many parents of children with varying ability levels. Some positive areas/successful ways to help are to use breakout sessions for one on one supports. Besides parents working on their own virtually, maybe we need some social time virtually for kids who are special needs as well as gen-ed and thinks that would be helpful. Teachers could ask more questions about their lives one on one because our students' home lives affect their education even more so virtually now. The biggest complaint she has heard from the community is that there are too many assignments.

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

- <https://www.smores.com/4zsy9-monthly-magic> contains awesome photos of material pick-up for preschool at Kelly Leadership Center. AAC has their own bitmoji and newsletter within this newsletter. Project Search continues.
- <https://www.smores.com/tk4e0> explanation of SPIRE, what it is, “really great reading” ... an entire newsletter all about reading

**III. Kim Legault-Early Intervention/Child Find**

- Moved into Woodbine Center, have new office assistant and other new staff, have 9 evaluators and 11 teachers. Stepped into 21st century and are tracking students electronically and are storing data on students on one-drive...makes it much easier to keep tabs on everything for each student. Working to get registration online, cases are tracked via excel spreadsheet, we are teaching how to do evaluations/screenings virtually. Children who do not do well virtually are still being seen in person, have had in-person learning since september 8th if parents chose that over virtual. Students who are receiving virtual instruction are demonstrating that they are learning, however, some who seem to be struggling are coming into woodbine for one-on-one now as kind of an experiment. Teachers are using zoom, canvas and flipgrid and teachers are also going to homes to drop off materials for students to use WHILE learning virtually. We also have provided materials at 2 giveaways...teachers were surveyed about what materials they needed and many people shopped all over, online and at stores to provide those resources....just excited about opportunity to make a difference in lives of students and families and preschool in general.

- Jaime--question, there are 691 students currently, is the number of students enrolled now similar to the number enrolled this time last year?
  - Answer--evaluators are hard at work trying to complete evaluations, so it's hard to say right now because they have a backlog right now and should be caught up by December
  - Beverly--had a similar question
- Jaime--you said that you are experimenting with bringing some kids into Woodbine for one-on-one, what does that look like and how do you identify who needs that extra help?
  - Answer--the way we identify is by the teacher having concerns, so the IEP team would pull in their team and also have discussion with their coordinator about the student's progress, they have 5 rooms that are supposed to be for testing but they are using them for this one-on-one service and the student has to come in with the parent and the parent is part of the lesson plan and they try to recreate the home environment in a way so the parent or parents can work with the teacher and the student
- Joi--RE canvas/flipgrid, how are you engaging parents/families to make sure they know how to use this technology?
  - Answer--we have first, worked with teachers to make sure they know how to use this technology so many families are experienced from the spring, we have provided laptops to many families as well, a couple of our families are having issues, we have a lot of support, if they are at the schools they have a lot of support

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#### **IV. Business:**

- Subcommittee to Review and update By-Laws: Jaime Van Echo, Shelly Witte, Kristie Bowie-Young, Rhonda Tabor, discussion and needs.
- [Working Document](#)
- Motion to table for one month by Beverly, seconded by Shelly Witte
- Subcommittee for SEAC Outreach and membership: Jaime Van Echo, Brandi Workman, Beverly Hicks discussion and updates. Need to contact Occoquan school board member, Lillie Jessie to inform her of the need for a new SEAC

representative. Sent letter on 10/28/2020 to Huebner and Roper for support and follow up.

- Ms. Huebner says she talked to B. Simpson and says she should have more information this friday and so expects to have more information by the next SEAC meeting.
- Debi is selflessly adding herself to this subcommittee...so it is written, so it is done.
- Yukiko says she has a teacher who is interested in being a teacher representative and will email that information.
- New business?
  - Concerns from parents re virtual learning? Materials have been addressed, OSE has shared ParentPacket online. What are we missing?
- Debi asks why not have buddy programs at all levels, high school, middle and elementary? Ms. Huebner mentions extreme decline in clubs because students are burned out with screen time. FinnFriends is still meeting every friday and is working extremely well. Battlefield has a buddy program also. We need to find an elementary school with a buddy program and then present primary and secondary school options for programs and video it.
  - Michelle... IEP teams need to have discussions about what the child's goals are and what needs to happen from now, and keep having these discussions
- SEPTA update
  - Thank you to Mellisa and PWC-SEPTA for sending out SEAC emails and prompting the meeting.
- Parent Resource Center: Rhonda Tabor
  - Had a parent workshop today, 104 parents came, 4 different languages were in it, were able to use interpretation rooms, went to channel and able to listen at the same time, lots of equality happening, no one had to be separated out, thanks to OSE who helped support that, topic was IEP process

- Sensory Success, workshop tomorrow night, Understanding and Addressing Trauma in Youth, in December, and a couple more in December, all are available on the website pwcs.edu in the resource center
- If a parent contacts you, please refer them to the webpage to help them get information.... There is a lot of information parents can access from their home
- [http://www.pwcs.edu/academics\\_programs/special\\_education/parent\\_resource\\_center](http://www.pwcs.edu/academics_programs/special_education/parent_resource_center)

## **V. Member Time:**

- Kristie Bowie-Young: Superintendent Representative
  - No comment
- Yukiko Dove- At-Large
  - Autism class, student left a classroom, he was found later, concerns about overall safety, perhaps teachers need extra help
- Beverly Hicks-Brentsville District
  - Bold statement from parent concern needs to be about social/emotional health
- Sarah Pitkin- Coles District
  - Absent
- Deborah Tekempe-Gainesville District
  - SPED teachers are making it work, great to see smiles of students in the building
- Angela Comisky- Neabsco District
  - No comment
- Brandi Workman-Potomac District
  - No comment
- Shelly Witte-Woodbridge District
  - Praise for son's current teacher, concern for teachers who are teaching virtually AND in person
- Consultant-Rhonda Tabor
  - (skipped by Jaime) Everyone is trying their best with everything they have, accept what you cannot control, appreciates time here at SEAC
- Consultant-Joi Funches
  - (skipped by Jaime) we are our brother's keeper, parents and teachers are doing a lot of heavy lifting and working a lot of hours, we have to give each

other some grace and accept it won't be perfect, offers to take things off Jaime's plate, hang in there

- Jaime Van Echo-Superintendent Representative
  - Struggling as a mom and professional and a volunteer, emailed each of us individually to let us know we aren't alone, does not intend to cause any stress with any emails, wants to be an advocate for special needs
- Vacant-Occoquan District (Justin Caron fill-in)
  - absent
- Vacant- Teacher Representative
- Vacant-Superintendent Representative
- Vacant-Superintendent Representative

## **VI. Closing**

- Michelle suggests that if there are any materials suggested that teachers or parents need, please email that
- Ms. Huebner says thank you to Jaime for her leadership and echoes thought that we of course want this pandemic to be over and everything to go back to normal but it won't go back to normal, we will go to a new normal, and points out that we have all learned so much through this pandemic because we have had to, OSE is committed to do better... SEAC is being asked to give feedback on what are the strengths and what are the areas of growth for PWCS and what are qualities needed in a good superintendent... please watch for an email and know we are invited
- Tara... says the resources she received for her student were so helpful and he said to the teacher "thank you for helping me learn to read." He needed motor movements and tactile pieces... I believe it is a SPIRE program from the way it is described, a foam board with letter manipulatives.
- Jess... says it's been very difficult in the classroom. Last week tuesday the tech did not work at all and she has 3 grade levels in the classroom. However, she has a lot of support in her school. With zoom meetings, she has almost 100% of parents participating in IEP and eligibility meetings now and this is the first time in 23 years of teaching that she's had everyone participate.
- Shelly motions to adjourn, seconded by Kristie, meeting adjourns at 2048

The SEAC is organized and functions in accordance with state and federal requirements. The Committee's functions include the following: monthly meetings with 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.