

Prince William County
Special Education Advisory Committee

2020-2021

October 20, 2020 7pm

Virtual meeting

bit.ly/PWCS-SEAC

- I. Opening of meeting:
 - Call to Order: Jaime Van Echo
 - Approval of [September Minutes](#): Shelly Witte
- II. 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.
- III. Office of Special Education: Dr. Roper presenting SMORE news from around the division.
- IV. Office of the Ombudsman Sarah Miller Espinosa, J.D., is privileged to serve as PWCS's first Ombudsman. She joined the school division in August 2019. Prior to joining PWCS, Sarah established the Office of the Ombuds at Montgomery College, a multi-campus community college in Montgomery County, Maryland. Over the past twenty years, she has overseen labor and employee relations programs in the public sector, mediated workplace and regulatory disputes, and served as an arbitrator, conducting hearings and issuing decisions.
[Ombudsman flyer](#)
- V. Business:
 - Introduction of new Gainesville Committee Member, Deborah Tekempe

- Motion to approve minutes from January 2020. During February meeting, a motion to postpone approval of the minutes was passed and the March meeting was cancelled due to Governor State of Emergency. Please review minutes and motion to approve [January Minutes](#).
- Subcommittee to Review and update By-Laws: Jaime Van Echo, Shelly Witte, Kristie Bowie-Young, Rhonda Tabor, discussion and needs. [Working Document](#)
- 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.
- Discussion regarding Facebook page considerations for SEAC: Denise Huebner reporting on information regarding Facebook page for SEAC related to PWCS rules and regulations.
 1. Yea:
 - a) Facebook would be a way to improve visibility for SEAC
 - b) Families could share info easier
 - c) Would be linked to the PWCS webpage
 - d) No comment account
 2. Nay:
 - a) SEAC is a function of the PWCS Office of Special Education required by law. SEAC members are representatives of the school board members and Superintendent and do not operate as a separate public group
 - b) Who would own/monitor the Facebook account?
 - c) What process would be in place to monitor and update the account?
 - d) Can we use related parent groups with Facebook accounts to help share SEAC information? SEPTA, PTA, Special Education groups at individual schools, etc.
- New business?
- SEPTA update
- Parent Resource Center: Rhonda Tabor

VI. Member Time:

- Kristie Bowie-Young: Superintendent Representative
- Yukiko Dove- At-Large
- Beverly Hicks-Brentsville District
- Sarah Pitkin- Coles District
- Deborah Tekempe-Gainesville District
- Angela Comisky- Neabsco District

- Brandi Workman-Potomac District
- Shelly Witte-Woodbridge District
- Consultant-Rhonda Tabor
- Consultant-Joi Funches
- Jaime Van Echo-Superintendent Representative
- Vacant-Occoquan District (Justin Caron fill-in)
- Vacant- Teacher Representative
- Vacant-Superintendent Representative
- Vacant-Superintendent Representative

VII. Closing

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.