

**State Special Education Advisory Committee
(SSEAC)**

**Holiday Inn Richmond Airport
Richmond, Virginia**

Thursday September 29, 2011

SSEAC Members					
	Present	Absent		Present	Absent
Eva Aikens	x		Sandra Hermann	x	
Judy Averill	x		Mona Holmes		x
Darren Minarik	x		Lori Jackson	x	
Michael Carrasco		x	Bernadette Jones		x
Adam Amick	x		Jackie Fagan	x	
Christina Draper	x		Jusolyn Bradshaw	x	
Christy Evanko	x		Jennifer O’Berry-Ham	x	
Fran Goforth	x		Scott Kizner	x	
Melodie Henderson		x			

Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Staff			
Doug Cox	Suzanne Creasey	Pat Haymes	Merilee Fox
Cathy Pomfrey	John Eisenberg	Paul Raskopf	Jeff Phenicie
Samantha Vanterpool (AG’s Office)			

Guests			
Suzanne Bowers	Beth Haw		

Call to Order

Ms. Jackie Fagan Myal called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. She made an announcement that only committee members may comment or ask questions with the exception of the Public Comment period. The committee members were asked to introduce themselves.

Business Session

Approval of Minutes

The committee was directed to look over the July 2011 meeting minutes. Dr. Scott Kizner noted that his name was not included, but that he did attend the July meeting. Ms. Eva Aikins made a motion to accept the minutes with the change; Dr. Darren Minarik seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with the change of adding Dr. Kizner to the list of attendees.

Report Follow-up to Public Comment from previous meeting

Two public comments were made at the July 2011 meeting. The first comment concerned twice-exceptional students. A follow-up letter was sent to the parent with some information and resources. Ms. Sandy Hermann mentioned that it would be a good idea to add the information about twice-exceptional students to the DOE Web site (FAQs). Doug Cox agreed that this warranted further discussion. He noted that we have good documents, but we need to make sure that they get to the right people. The second public comment from the July meeting concerned safety issues for students with disabilities. A follow-up letter was also sent to this parent with some information.

Annual Update from the Office of Dispute Resolution

Ms. Patricia Haymes delivered the annual update from the Office of Dispute Resolution. She noted that committee members should have received a hard copy of the report in the mail. A summary was distributed at the meeting. The highlights include a decrease in due process requests (which is traditionally low), and an increase in complaints (reason unknown). The number of mediations held steady from the prior year. Inquiries (responses in writing) are way up.

Update from Office of the Attorney General

There was no report, but the representative from the AG's office had arranged for and provided the training for the SSEAC on the Conflict of Interest Act and the Freedom of Information Act on Wednesday evening, September 28, 2011.

Bylaws Update

Ms. Patricia Haymes gave an update on suggested changes to the current SSEAC bylaws. The latest draft was distributed. She asked that comments be given within the next month so that they

can be circulated. If the by-laws are to be updated via vote at the November meeting and must be distributed 30 days prior to the meeting, then comments need to be provided by mid-October. Ms. Sandy Hermann asked if the committee could receive a draft which highlighted or tracked the changes and Ms. Haymes said that she would provide it for the subcommittee meeting the next day. Ms. Haymes also planned to be present at the Policy Subcommittee meeting.

Presentations

Special Education Data and Finance Updates

- Mr. Paul Raskopf, Office of Data and Finance

Mr. Paul Raskopf presented information comparing totals from the December 1, 2008 child count to totals from the December 1, 2010 child count. The presentation included discussion of the increases and decreases for individual disability category totals.

Educating Youth Held in the Justice System

- Mr. Jeff Phenicie, Office of Special Education Instructional Services

Mr. Jeff Phenicie gave an overview of educational services for incarcerated youth held in Virginia. The presentation included detention homes, juvenile centers, jails, and state prisons, discussing who operates them and who educates students housed in them.

State Operated Programs

- Ms. Merilee Fox, Director of State Operated Programs

Ms. Merilee Fox provided an introduction including her background and an historical perspective. She talked about her department staffs and medical facilities with educational programs including, the Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters (CHKD) in Norfolk, the Medical College of Virginia (MCV) and Richmond Children's Hospital, the University of Virginia Hospital, and CCC/CDC Clinics. All of these are short-term facilities, with the exception of Richmond Children's Hospital which is long term and served by the local education agency (LEA). She also discussed budgets and how funds are used.

Assistant Superintendent Report

- Mr. H. Douglas Cox, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Special Education and Student Services

Mr. Cox reported on the Aspiring Special Education Leaders program. He stated that Cohort 4 would be observing the SSEAC at its December meeting. The program continues to be full and never lacks in applicants.

The Assistant Superintendent was also recently asked to provide information to the Disabilities Commission. In the past they had focused mainly on adults, but this year, they asked for information on children. The group is focusing on four areas.

- Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments, and their inclusion in the State Standard of Quality funding system.
- Students with Disabilities in Nursing Homes
- Standards for Interpreters for the Deaf or Hard of Hearing
- The transfer of assisted technology to the student or family after graduation

Mr. Cox concluded his report regarding the Disabilities Commission by saying that legislation can be tracked on the VDOE Web site.

Mr. Cox stated that Virginia was invited by the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE) to showcase two initiatives at its annual meeting. The first was the Autism Center for Excellence. Mr. John Eisenberg moderated a panel for VCU, ACE, and Richmond City Schools who received one of their grants. The second was the Aspiring Leaders program. Virginia and Maryland co-presented since they are the only states with this type of program for Special Education.

Mr. Cox announced that there is a need to fill two vacancies on the SSEAC and those nominations will be presented to the Board of Education at its October meeting.

Another item for the Board of Education (BOE) October meeting will be the presentation of the SSEAC Annual Report. It was decided that the report would be presented later than usual so that the Aspiring Leaders could be present. Dr. Mike Behrman, immediate past chair, will be returning to present the report at the BOE meeting.

Mr. Cox mentioned that at the July BOE meeting, Just Children, an advocacy group out of Charlottesville commented positively on the disciplinary procedures for all children under ESD. There was also a report on enrollment trends. Another recent presentation was for the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities by Mr. John McNaught who did a presentation about the I'm Determined project. Mr. Cox also recognized Mr. Adam Amick and Mr. Darren Minarik for their work on the project. He directed committee members to the Web site at www.imdetermined.org. Mr. Minarik spoke more in detail about the project, and specifically the recent summit that was held in Washington, DC where students met members of Congress, visited memorials, and rode the subway to explore the difficulty of getting around. Summits present youth with the opportunity to become politically active.

Mr. Cox provided an update on the situation for children with mild intellectual disabilities that do not qualify for VAAP, but have difficulties with the SOL. The first step in helping these children is to create a white paper. This is underway and should be complete to present at the NASDSE board meeting to take on as a national priority.

Public Comment

There were no public comments made at this meeting.

Future Meeting Schedule

- September 29-30, 2011
- December 8-9, 2011
- March 22-23, 2012
- June 21-22, 2012
- September 27-28, 2012
- December 6-7, 2012

Lunch

Presentations continued

Teacher Pay for Performance and Master Student Collection

- Ms. Patty Pitts, Assistant Superintendent of Teacher Licensure

Ms. Patty Pitts gave a profile of Virginia Instructional School Personnel. She indicated that the term “highly qualified” was being phased out and they were now going to refer to teachers as “highly effective.” In the past, students were counted and teachers were counted, but in the future, students are going to be assigned to teachers. This is the first time teachers will be connected both to the students they teach as well as to the licensure that they hold.

For more information, Ms. Pitts invited the committee to go to the DOE Web site or call/e-mail her with questions.

Constituency Reports

Name	Report
Adam Amick	11/7 – 9 is the I’m Determined Youth Summit in Charlottesville. There are two sites that have good information on Disabilities History Awareness Month: www.virginiasefadvocacy.org and www.imdetermined.org .
Eva Aikens	<p>In Region 6 Danville Community College is now offering classes to complete the Autism Certificate. The affordable cost has sparked the interest in our community. There are teachers from Danville and Pittsylvania County taking advantage of this opportunity. Some of the teachers are forming a parent-teacher support group.</p> <p>The Danville SEAC presented the 2010-2011 Jane Friend Award to Ms. Geraldine Fitzgerald. This award is given in memory of Jane Friend, to someone who has done exceptional work in special education. Ms. Fitzgerald is a teacher at GLH Johnson elementary school in Danville. Kim Yearman from Danville is participating in the Aspiring Leaders program this year.</p>
Judy Averill	<p>Transition and Vocational</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Across Virginia, we have seen an increase with programming for 18-22 year olds through the SEARCH programs and ACE-IT program. Virginia currently has a total of 10 SEARCH programs across the state with the addition of 2 new SEARCH sites this school year: Manassas and Tazewell. The ACE-IT program began this fall at VCU enrolling 2 students with intellectual disabilities. • Transition Practitioners Council Meetings are scheduled for this fall across the state: Oct. 6 at Radford University and Nov. 2 at William and Mary. These meetings provide information to practitioners on DOE and DRS updates as well as use of technology and best practices in the field of transition. • DRS is still under order of selection
Jusolyn Bradshaw	none
Michael Carrasco	absent
Christina Draper	<p>My disability support group that I’m a member of met with a non- profit organization called “Friends of Philpott”. They accepted a project to make Bowen’s Creek located in Bassett, Virginia to renovate it and make it totally accessible; they were able to get funding for this through grants and donations. Prior to this renovation adults and children with disabilities could not utilize all the outdoor activities that this attraction had to offer due to inaccessibility. They have renovated the whole park, paved the trails, have the nature trails also in Braille for people with vision impairments. They have an elevator so people with mobility impairments could reach the dock for boating or fishing. They have installed numerous handicap stalls in bathrooms. Beach wheelchairs can be rented if individuals want to go in the sand area. They have worked very hard to make it accessible for all disabilities. They are also making a total accessible playground for kids with disabilities</p> <p>Parents of Children with disabilities and self-advocate that obtain their child’s or their own Durable Medical Equipment (DME) from Romar Medequip located in Danville Virginia have expressed concern, anger, and disgust since the</p>

Name	Report
	<p>takeover has occurred, Romar Med equip made house calls for repairs because they realize that not everyone has the ability come them because of child's disability needs or their own disability needs and that is how they kept so many customers. However, when in the last few months Romar Med Equip became Advanced Home Care out of N.C, we received letters stating that all services would be the same but that is not the case. Advanced Home Care charges \$75 out of pocket expense for service calls to the home per call. No other provider will work on equipment that wasn't purchased from them; parents are outraged because a lot of them will not have the means to pay this fee and won't be able to meet the needs of their child if their equipment Breaks!</p> <p>I have also been invited to join the Board of an Autism Support Group in Franklin County headed by a local constituent who has twin boys with Autism. The head of the group is from Bassett, Virginia. I haven't made a decision yet but plan to attend the group's next meeting or activity.</p>
Christy Evanko	Region 1: Relayed an issue that some SEAC's are having difficulty with understanding RtI and determining whether or not it is a special education or regular education initiative.
Jackie Fagan	oral
Fran Goforth	<p>We would like to thank the Board of Education for reconsidering the timeframe for the completion of the VAAP. The Board of Education was originally considering that the LEAs would have to submit the Collection of Evidence in March 2012 and due to feedback, the Board voted on 9-22-11 to have the submission timeframe remain consistent with the 2011 year.</p> <p>VCASE is pairing with National CASE for an International Conference in Williamsburg on November 9 – 11, 2011. The theme of the conference is "Leading Edge to Data Driven Decision Making".</p> <p>Budgets for the next several years continue to be a concern for local school divisions.</p>
Melodie Henderson	absent
Sandra Hermann	<p>Region 2: They recently had a PIER (Protect Individual Educational Rights) meeting, looking to improve the effectiveness of SEAC's. Sandy attended and brought information about I'm Determined. October is Disabilities History Awareness Month and Region 2 has various activities planned in celebration. In Norfolk, the SEAC made recommendations with regards to service animals, but they were not adopted and may be out of compliance with ADA. Virginia Beach had a Community Resource Fair (held annually) with 100 vendors and also a SEAC organized meet and greet. Adam Amick asked if there were representatives at the fair for environmental modifications in Hampton Roads. Sandy replied that there are few, but they do exist. Sandy noted that Region 2 has membership challenges and Suzanne Creasy did a Webinar to help with resources. She also asked Samantha Vanterpool if SEAC bylaws needed to match the local school board's. Samantha said to ask local council. Finally, Sandy said that there is a regional registry for individuals with special needs so that planners know in case of an emergency (such as hurricane).</p>
Mona Holmes	absent

Name	Report
Lori Jackson	<p>Over the summer two of our Special Education programs in Mathews presented at The Governor’s Conference on Education, one being the Parent Resource Center, focusing on community collaboration and the other is the Thrifty Spot, which is a thrift store that is ran by High School students as part of their transition program. We invite all neighboring localities to participate in all our local SEAC activities.</p> <p>The Mathews SEAC has been focusing on working with the local schools to promote October as Disability Awareness Month. We have arranged to do a lunchtime presentation to students using you tube videos tailored to grade level. This will be presented to all grade levels in Mathews during the month of October. We are also working with the Mathews Film Society in showing a movie TBD during October. They worked with us in April to show the movie Temple Grandin and we had a good turnout. Membership recruitment is still a top priority for local SEAC’s in region 3.</p>
Bernadette Jones	absent
Scott Kizner	Noted the Superintendents meeting the following week.
Darren Minarik	oral
Jennifer O’Berry Ham	none
(PEATC) Suzanne Bowers	Refer to end of document for report from PEATC
Suzanne Creasey	<p>Each member had been sent a hard copy of the newly formatted regulations; in addition, they are available on line. The formatting resulted in fewer pages and it is in the same format as the former “green book” that people are familiar with. We are not printing these but are making copies as needed only if someone calls and says they can’t access them. The on-line version has a table of contents with live links that provide for easy access to different sections of the regulations.</p>

Possible agenda items for December 2011 Meeting:

- Aspiring Leaders will have a 1.5 hour presentation after lunch
- Other ideas: Family Navigation, Speech and Language with Marie Ireland, Severe Disabilities Consortium, Assessments including VAAP and VMAST, I’m Determined presentation with John McNaught. Most agreed that the most important was the information about Severe Disabilities.
- Sandy Hermann noted that there is a conflict with the Standing and Ad Hoc committees. To solve this, it may be necessary to move the Standing Committee meetings to Thursday and the Superintendent’s Report to Friday.

Ms. Lori Jackson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Christy Evanko seconded.

Friday, September 30, 2011

SSEAC Members					
	Present	Absent		Present	Absent
Eva Aikens	x		Sandra Hermann	x	
Judy Averill	x		Mona Holmes		x
Darren Minarik	x		Lori Jackson		x
Michael Carrasco		x	Bernadette Jones		x
Adam Amick	x		Jackie Fagan	x	
Christina Draper	x		Jusolyn Bradshaw	x	
Christy Evanko		x	Jennifer O’Berry-Ham	x	
Fran Goforth	x		Scott Kizner	x	
Melodie Henderson		x			

Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Staff			
Doug Cox	Suzanne Creasey	Pat Haymes	Samantha Vanterpool (AG’s Office)
Cathy Pomfrey	John Eisenberg	Wayne Berry	

Guests			
Beth Haw			

Call to Order

Ms. Jackie Fagan, chair, called the meeting to order.

Ad Hoc Subcommittee’s Meetings

Members of the Ad Hoc Subcommittees met.

Ad Hoc Subcommittee’s Reports

Response to Intervention (Rti)

Ms. Judy Averill reported.

1. Hard to believe that 4 years ago we were in final planning stage of 3 Institutes

2. 3 ½ years ago we selected 16 pilot schools and began 2 year training process
3. Last year we began training cohorts of school divisions – we’re now overseeing implementation of Responsive Instruction in almost 30 school divisions and 100 schools (2 short on each):

Alleghany	Augusta (2)	Bath	Bristol (6)	Buchanan (6)
Charlottesville	Covington (1)	Dickenson (5)	Falls Church (2)	Fluvanna (5)
Gloucester	Halifax (5)	Loudoun	Lunenburg (2)	Manassas Park
Martinsville	Mecklenburg (7)	Northampton (2)	Portsmouth	Powhatan (2)
Prince Edward (2)	Prince William (4)	Pulaski (5)	Richmond Co.	Shenandoah (5)
Scott (13)	Smyth (13)	Spotsylvania (2)		

4. We have groomed 4 coaches to facilitate the work of school division personnel:
 - Regina Pierce (educational diagnostician) – Charlottesville, Northern Virginia
 - Steve Hale (school psychologist) – Southwest and far Southwest
 - Sandy Hart (educational specialist) – North Central Virginia, Shenandoah Valley
 - Rich Bowmaster (superintendent) – Eastern shore, Tidewater, Richmond area
5. We have almost completed development of a Benchmark document (final stage)
 - 3 Developmental Stages: Emerging, Developing, Sustaining
 - 8 Dimensions (professional development & data-based decision-making embedded in:
 - Leadership
 - Organizational and School Structure
 - Monitoring Student Progress
 - Problem Solving
 - Curriculum
 - Instruction
 - Family/Community Partnerships
 - Evaluation
6. We’ve planned a full calendar of trainings for this year:
 - Cohort /Pilot trainings: Nov. 8/9; January 31/Feb.1; March 7/8; April 23/24; July 12/13
 - Statewide Institutes (March and Summer)
7. Collaborating with Higher Education in October (JMU)
8. We’re working on coaching manual and updated guidance document!!!

Personnel Ad Hoc Subcommittee

Mr. John Eisenberg reported for the committee.

Constituency Involvement Ad Hoc Subcommittee

Ms. Sandy Hermann reported.

The Constituency Involvement Ad Hoc Subcommittee discussed the status of the regional meetings that were proposed and approved at the last meeting. Eight regional meetings will be coordinated to include the local SEAC Chair or representative and the Special Education Director in each region. The SSEAC parent representative from each region will be involved in helping to coordinate the location and assisting with the meeting. The purpose of these meetings will be networking and creating a relationship between the SSEAC and the local SEACs while also providing some essential information such as FOIA. It was suggested that resources be purchased/collected by VDOE to be available to loan to local SEACs to include a DVD or webinar access to training on FOIA as well as Robert's Rules of Order.

Each regional parent representative on the SSEAC was sent a list of the local SEAC chair information for their respective regions. They were asked to confirm and to provide information that was not provided in the annual plans. Conducting this information confirmation/gathering will provide the regional reps an opportunity to talk with each of the SEAC chairs in their regions and establish themselves as the conduit between local SEACs and the SSEAC. It was suggested that the regional representatives ask for home addresses to be sure that there is a way to directly contact each local SEAC chair.

Policy and Regulations Subcommittee

Ms. Jackie Fagan asked the full SSEAC to come together on the policy and regulations subcommittee. The entire SSEAC committee reviewed and discussed suggested changes for the Bylaws.

Public Comment Review

It was noted there were no public comments from Thursday.

It was announced that the next meeting will be December 8 – 9 at the Holiday Inn Richmond Airport.

Meeting Adjourned

Virginia State Special Education Advisory Committee September 28-30, 2011

Cathy Healy, Chief Executive Officer

Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC)

PEATC is the federally funded parent training and information (PTI) center since 1978 established under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act serving families of children with disabilities birth to age 26 across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PEATC materials and services are recognized nationally as practical, child-centered, and grounded in the firm belief that children with disabilities can reach their potential when parents and schools enjoy an equal and respectful partnership. Outreach efforts target the needs of Virginia's culturally-linguistically-geographically diverse communities and families.

PTI Highlights

1. Information and Assistance – Year 2 Benchmarks.

- Monthly minimum: 569
- Quarterly Minimum: 1,706
- Year 2 Minimum: 6,825
 - Tallies for May 2011 - 989 (this represents about a third increase in intakes for May 2011 as compared with May of 2010.)
 - First quarter tally October 2010-December 31, 2010 – 2559
 - Second quarter tally Jan 2011- March 31, 2011- 3012
 - Third quarter April and May- 2256
 - June intakes numbers netted a 54% increase from 2010 – 1263

2. Current Data reflects effectiveness of PEATC services

Our most current data collection shows the effectiveness of PEATC services and the impact on families of children with disabilities in working with schools.

- Ninety-four percent of families of children with disabilities reported PEATC workshop information was useful and 86% of families reported the relevancy of the information positively impacted their ability to make decisions about their children's education.
- In learning how to work with their children's schools 91% of families of children with disabilities report an increase in their ability to form partnerships with their children's schools while 74% reported being able to address a critical educational need for children by working *with* not *against* schools.
- Twice as many parents of school age children with disabilities receiving PEATC services reported being able to resolve disagreements with school divisions after receiving PEATC

services as 96% of parents reported they are more knowledgeable about how to work with schools.

3. Lunchtime with Lawyers: A PEATC Training Series – three presentations from legal experts on the issues of:

- Navigating the Zero Tolerance School Policy Maze
- Behavior Intervention Plans & Functional Behavioral Assessments
- 504s versus IEPs

4. Lunchtime Learning Series – four series webinar conducted by PEATC staff on topics requested by families – including:

- Best Foot Forward – Organization 101
- Puberty and Sexuality
- Behavior Basics
- Friends and Fun
- Eight Principles of Universal Design
- The Elephant in the Room - Communication

5. Technology (as of July 19, 2011)

Website – For May and June we have logged 12,378 visits which is an increase of about 2,000 visits from the previous quarter.

Facebook – we have 786 fans and average 379 weekly visits.

Twitter – We now have 77 followers up 5 from the last report in May. The Twitter feed is directly linked to Facebook, so each time a Facebook status/post is updated it appears on Twitter as well.

6. Outreach Highlights

- Festival Educativo updates:
 - Final count- 300 hundred people attended the festival
 - 6 General Consuls were represented
 - Media coverage included all the most important Latino media: Coverage was provided in the Washington Hispanic Newspaper www.washingtohispanic.com
- July 8: **How to integrate and use Assistive Technology Services in order to improve the outcomes for children with disabilities.** Guest speaker: Estela Landeros Assistive Technology Coordinator for T/TAC; George Mason University- 25-30 participants

- **Conferencia Educativa in Richmond:** at the Virginia Chamber of Commerce Community Expo Saturday, July 16th, 2011 Workshops: The basics of IDEA, Understanding Special Education and General overview of Autism and special education.
 - **IEP Clinics:** Week of July 25-29 and Week of August 15-19
 - August 12: **Early Intervention: What you need to know to overcome the unplanned journey - Guest speaker Anna Catonir**
 - September 23: **Cultural Competences in Engaging Parents in the Special Education Process - Speaker Rosalia Fajardo**
7. **We have collected approximately 138 parent involvement surveys completed by Latino families.**