

**STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SSEAC)
TO THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION (BOE)
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (VDOE)**
Four Points by Sheraton Richmond Airport
Henrico, Virginia

Meeting Minutes
July 19-21, 2017

Wednesday, July 19

Committee Members:

Mrs. Jill Sowers Becker, Member-at-Large

Mrs. Christine Germeyer, Vice Chair

Ms. Catherine King, Secretary

Ms. Alison MacArthur, Chair

Mrs. Erica Midboe, Member-at-Large (Absent)

Mr. Brian Summo, Member-at-Large

Ms. Jacqui Wilson, Member-at-Large

VDOE Representatives:

Mr. Hank Millward

Ms. Denise A. Throckmorton (Recording)

Call to Order

Ms. MacArthur, Chair, called the meeting of the Executive Committee to order at 5:43 p.m., welcomed everyone in attendance, and led the introductions. The purpose of the meeting was to review and modify the draft of the State Special Education Advisory Committee (SSEAC) Annual Report for the period of July 2016 to June 2017 for presentation to the Board of Education (BOE). Ms. MacArthur and members reviewed and discussed proposed changes and information from the previous year with a primary focus on the revisions to the recommendations and commendations sections of the annual report. The members developed a plan for presenting and discussing the draft report with the full committee with the goal of having a report approved by the entire committee to submit to the BOE. By regulation, the annual report must be submitted to the BOE before October 1 of each year.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Establish SSEAC 2018 Calendar Year Meeting Schedule

- March 8-9, 2018
- July 19-20, 2018 *Executive Committee only meeting on July 18, 2018
- October 4-5, 2018
- December 6-7, 2018

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Thursday, July 20

Committee Members:

Mrs. Jill Sowers Becker, Member-at-Large
Dr. Brooke Blanks
Ms. Suzanne Bowers, Ex-officio
Mr. Jack M. Brandt (Absent)
Dr. Jeffrey D. Cassell (Absent)
Mr. Jim Gallagher (Absent)
Mr. Damon J. Garrison
Mrs. Christine Germeyer, Vice Chair
Ms. Margarete Hecker Jeffer
Mrs. Catherine King, Secretary
Ms. Heidi L. Lawyer, Ex-officio
Mr. Matthew Luther, M.Ed.
Ms. Alison MacArthur, Chair
Ms. Tashue Mason
Mrs. Erica Midboe, Member-at-Large (Absent)
Ms. Lisa Richard (Absent)
Ms. Lora Smith
Mr. Brian Summo, Member-at-Large
Ms. Joan K. Sumner
Mr. Cameron D. Wilmer

Ms. Jacqui Wilson, Member-at-Large

VDOE Representatives:

Ms. Gloria L. Dalton
Mr. Daniel L. “Dan” Dunham
Ms. Patricia V. “Pat” Haymes
Mrs. Tracy Lee
Mr. Henry J. “Hank” Millward, Jr.
Mr. Jeffery “Jeff” Phenicie
Ms. Denise A. Throckmorton (Recording)

Other Participants:

Dr. Carol M. Schall, Assistant Professor,
Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)
Ms. Mona Siddiqui, Assistant Attorney
General, Office of the Attorney General
(OAG)
Ms. Susan B. Williams, Assistant Attorney
General, OAG

Members of the General Public:

Beth Haw

Call to Order

Ms. MacArthur called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m., welcomed everyone in attendance, and led the introductions.

Business Session

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was distributed via email, and a hard copy was included in the SSEAC meeting folders. The committee was asked to review the proposed agenda. Mrs. Germeyer made a motion to approve the agenda and Ms. Wilson seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

The March 30-31, 2017, minutes were distributed via email prior to the meeting and members were encouraged to come prepared with any changes. There were two changes requested; i.e., a correction on page 6, under the Assistant Superintendent’s Report; in the Inclusion and Dyslexia summary, in the last paragraph, third sentence, to read “guidance and support to be filed;” and,

on page 8, in the first paragraph, the last sentence to read “obviously a clear violation.” Mrs. Sumner made a motion to approve the minutes with changes and Mr. Luther seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Annual Plans Applications

- *Hank Millward, Director, Office of Specialized Education Facilities and Family Engagement (SEFFE), Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)*

Mr. Millward presented the Annual Plan for Ms. Tracie Coleman, Special Education Budget and Finance Manager, (SESS), VDOE, to the SSEAC for review, and consideration. They are asking for funding under 611 to continue their literacy program, and to use the money they are asking for which is \$275 to purchase e-books, e-readers in supporting students in special education services.

Business Session

Follow-up Report to Public Comment

Mr. Millward, Director, Office of Specialized Education Facilities and Family Engagement (SEFFE), VDOE, presented the report covering meetings from October 13, 2016, to March 30, 2017. See attachment A.

Finalize Annual Report to the Board of Education

Ms. MacArthur discussed the revisions to the annual report made by the Executive Committee. See finalized report, Attachment B.

Determine SSEAC 2018 calendar year meeting schedule

- March 8-9, 2018
- July 19-20, 2018 *Executive Committee only meeting on July 18, 2018
- October 4-5, 2018
- December 6-7, 2018

Mr. Luther made a motion to set these dates, Dr. Blanks seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment Protocol

Discussion on the establishment of a new SSEAC email at the VDOE. Mr. Millward recommended that all SSEAC Public comment should be sent to the SSEAC@doe.virginia.gov email.

Explanation on the process for effecting any proposed changes to the SSEAC. Mr. Millward asked if the SSEAC wanted to move forward to the BOE what was proposed at the March

meeting, which excluded the video portion of public comment, as the changes developed are ready. Additionally, the BOE has not responded to the letter SSEAC sent. Proposed changes to SSEAC public comment protocol will be discussed and finalized during Subcommittee meeting on Friday July 21, 2017.

SSEAC Membership Contact Information

Currently the only member information listed is their mailing or street address however, there is no telephone number or email addresses listed. The contact list is pending updating with new members' information once it is determined what contact information to post. Mrs. Germeyer recommended that we remove the address of the SSEAC members, and add more information such as the members' telephone and email address. Most parent representatives expressed they are not comfortable with having their home address listed to the public especially in those localities where there are problems with advocacy groups. Ms. Lawyer stated that the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities (VBPD) does not give out any personal information on their Board Members. Mrs. Bowers suggested that the city and state remain listed so the constituents can see where the representatives reside without giving their home address. Additionally, there was discussion regarding the suggestion of SSEAC members having individual VDOE (state agency) emails versus maintaining their own independent email addresses for contact.

Presentations

Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Training

- *Ms. Susan B. Williams Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General (OAG)*

Ms. Williams shared a PowerPoint presentation and training on the *Freedom of Information Act* (FOIA) and held a question and answer session at the end of the presentation. It was highlighted that since the SSEAC is a public body under purposes of FOIA, the committee is required to be established under the IDEA, membership is prescribed by the IDEA, our members are appointed and SSEAC activities governed by the BOE. Ms. Williams shared that the policy underlying FOIA is that all public records are open, unless there is an exemption and that exemption is properly invoked. It was noted that closed meeting protocol does not apply to the SSEAC as closed meetings are not held.

The FOIA presentation included what constitutes a meeting; participation by members via teleconference or other electronic means; FOIA requirements for public notice; voting and polling; what is a public record under FOIA; who may request records under FOIA; what a FOIA request looks like, and how FOIA requests can be made; when and how must a public body respond to a FOIA request; information regarding emails as public records; FOIA Records Exemptions; Enforcement of FOIA; FOIA Penalties; and finally Virginia FOIA Advisory Council, foiacouncil@dis.virginia.gov. See Attachment C, FOIA Training.

Working Lunch

The committee adjourned at 12:06 p.m. for a working lunch to discuss ideas for presentations at upcoming meetings and subcommittee goals. The committee reconvened at 1:02 p.m.

Public Comment

Ms. Haw shared the Exceptional Eagles Club and the expansion to exceptional games for recreational sports similar to Special Olympics. She stated that it was a wonderful program that involved numerous partners of her local community and the program was well received.

Ms. MacArthur shared an email from a parent concerned with the lack of consistency in Arlington Public Schools. The parent expressed their dissatisfaction with their school as compared to a neighboring school in the district that offered one-to-one.

The SSEAC was informed concerning the inconsistencies of dyslexia and its proper identification that with the dyslexia trainings, this will improve. The emails received and read by various members concerned inclusive efforts and supporting students with disabilities in general education settings. Many of the communications included specific recommendations, and Ms. MacArthur stated that follow-up these public comments will be addressed.

Presentations

Ft. Eustis – Project SEARCH Update

- *Dr. Carol M. Schall, Assistant Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), Autism Center for Excellence (ACE)*
- *Daniel L. “Dan” Dunham, Military Students and Families Specialist, Office of Student Services, VDOE*

Mr. Dunham introduced Dr. Schall who gave a presentation on Project SEARCH and held a question and answer session at the end of the presentation. Dr. Schall gave specific updates on their research, which is currently funded through a national grant, and will be funded by a military grant and a special project they have at Ft. Eustis. She discussed the Labor Force Participation issues, more specifically Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), for individuals with disabilities that range the entire spectrum.

She discussed the transition of ASD and that only six percent of individuals are working in competitive jobs, and had outcomes worse than peers with other disabilities. In accordance to the National Longitudinal Transition Study-2 that 53 percent are unemployed. Dr. Schall stated that if a person does not have a job, paid or unpaid, during high school, they are 60 percent likely to be unemployed in adulthood. She stated that instead of looking at deficits in the gifts, skills and abilities, it is best to focus upon those abilities the individual does well and enjoys doing, and then build in skill development in areas the individual may need for employment. Dr. Schall stated that most ASD individuals have great attention to detail, strong work ethic, and unique personalities and abilities. She discussed Project SEARCH and its goals and objectives to assist the ASD population. Dr. Schall shared the components of Internship not volunteering. She presented a video of “Stephanie” and her work at St. Mary’s in the Endoscopy Department. The video highlighted the progression of getting internships into the hospital and the selection process for the ASD participant. Dr. Schall shared that co-workers were trained on appropriate interaction with the intern and how to communicate and give instructions to the intern in a

fashion that was best suited for her. She shared the efforts and progression of the program and the intern's success in employment.

Dr. Schall shared the statistics on control and treatment groups and the success of the latter in retaining employment after high school. She stated that in Phase 2, they are looking at social responsiveness, self-determination, health and wellbeing, and support intensity.

Dr. Schall shared that Phase 3 will be starting in September 2017. This phase is looking at the effect of a nine-month Internship for Transition-Aged Military Dependents with ASD. They will be working with the Military connected and military dependents with ASD on transition to employment from September 2017-June 2020 through Waitlist Control Group Study.

Dr. Schall identified the collaborative partners, i.e., VCU, Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), Fort Eustis EFMP and School Liaison, Newport News Public Schools, Hampton Public Schools, Williamsburg/James City Public Schools, and York County Public Schools. She shared that the focus was on the military families as they are dually disadvantaged due to frequent moves.

Dr. Schall identified another intern, Damien, whose work was handling inventory and checking for expired pharmaceuticals. His job expanded as he was extremely quick and needed more work. The intern's job expanded to include the delivery of chemo pharmaceuticals to the outpatient infusion center of the hospital enhancing the speed and efficiency of treatment delivery to the outpatient center. The intern has been working for five years and the intern has written his own plan and no longer needs a routine job coach.

Dr. Schall stated that this kind of program will be implemented in the military in such places as the PX, fast food facilities, recreational centers, on base hospitals and clinics, the army community service center, basically anywhere there is a need for workers. She stated that Project SEARCH teaches individuals, that have significant disabilities and will not graduate with a standard or advanced diploma, how to work while in high school as the focus will be going to work and not advance educational pursuits. ASIS is a sister program that is focused on assisting ASD individuals on to college. Dr. Schall elaborated on the need for assisting individuals in the workplace with personal independence that is no longer available such as in high school with one-to-one assistants. She stated that the program is focused on helping the individual find their interests and skills. Dr. Schall shared that the transition plan is not necessarily attached to the IEP, however they would like to have a specific and personalized IEP transition plan with the input based on the individual's personal desires. Dr. Schall stated the goal should be more of a move from individualization to personalization.

Dispute Resolution Report

- *Patricia V. Haymes, Director, Office of Dispute Resolution and Administrative Services (ODRAS), VDOE*

Ms. Haymes gave a presentation on the annual Dispute Resolution Report. She shared information on the Center for Appropriate Dispute Resolution (CADRE) resource and website at

www.cadeworks.org. She discussed the three options for dispute resolution in Special Education which are mediation, state complaints, and due process.

Ms. Haymes shared the first and preferred option is mediation which can be scheduled within a short period of time. She stated both parties have to agree to the mediation and that mediators are independent contractors (independent of the school and ODRAS). Ms. Haymes stated mediators will try to help the school division and the parents come to a resolution early on, help to salvage frayed relationships, and that mediation has a very high success rate.

Ms. Haymes discussed the second option of state complaints that do not require layers, which must be in writing, that can be filed by anyone to address the violation of special education laws and regulations, which are usually processed in 60 days, and can be filed up to a year after the date of incident, e.g., parent alleging no services received for a period of time. She shared that if a state complaint is filed but does not violate special education laws and regulations, ODRAS will point them to the correct avenue to address the issue(s). Ms. Haymes also clarified with regards to complaints, that “rudeness” by school personnel is not an issue for dispute.

Ms. Haymes shared the third option of due process which is required under Federal Law being a legal process in which an independent hearing officer (an attorney trained in Special Education Law) who is appointed by the Virginia Supreme Court. Most school divisions will have an attorney and the parent(s) will hire an attorney, and is the most expensive method to work to resolve issues. Unless a parent is a trained lawyer, it would probably not be wise to participate in due process without an attorney. Ms. Haymes stated that the hearing officer’s decision can be appealed at the federal or state court as applicable.

Ms. Haymes reviewed a CADRE statistical chart overlying the three methods of resolution and Virginia was fairly in the middle on the national level. The VDOE had 122 Mediation requests, 153 State Complaints filed, and 93 Due Process that were filed in the 2016-2017 school year. In the 2015-2016 school year, 142 requests for mediation were received. She stated that this is a very small percentage considering there are 169,000 students with disabilities in Virginia, and statistically being there was less than one tenth of one percent of activity in dispute resolution for the total population of individuals with disabilities within the Commonwealth. The requests have doubled from last year to this year. It is suspected that the results of Endrew F. (case) are that parents’ interpretation that a free appropriate public education (FAPE) requires more than what they are receiving. Additionally, there has been an increase in advocates promoting due process. There are time requirements and financial concerns in response to due process complaints experienced by VDOE which takes funding from more needed programs.

Ms. Haymes stated that encouraging resolution at the lowest possible level is the quickest fashion, and where VDOE would encourage parents to start. She stated that there is a Parents’ Guide to Dispute Resolution that is available at all Parent Resource Centers.

Ms. Haymes discussed the significance of various components in the IEP and how they interrelate. She shared that a contract was signed with George Mason University (GMU), School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution (SCAR), where GMU will be recruiting and training independent persons to provide facilitation for IEP meetings. The difference in an IEP that is

facilitated and a mediation, is that the goal is to leave the facilitation with a signed IEP. This will be piloted with 15-20 school divisions in the 2018-2019 school year.

I'm Determined Youth and Parent Summit Out-brief

- *Ms. Gloria Dalton, Parent Ombudsman, SEFFE, VDOE*

Ms. Dalton gave a video presentation from the I'm Determined 2017 Youth and Parent Summit, held on June 14-16, 2017, as presented by the Center for Family Involvement (CFI) at the Partnership for People with Disabilities at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). Additional information is available from their website at <https://centerforfamilyinvolvement.vcu.edu/2017/06/15/parent-summit-2017/>.

She shared this was the 11th year of this program. Ms. Dalton shared 182 applications and 76 percent were accepted. This year's attendance was 167 youth and 190 parents at the James Madison University (JMU) campus. Ms. Dalton shared that almost 80 percent of participants were first year attendees at the I'm Determined summit. She shared that the 15-18 year olds were the highest group of participants.

Ms. Dalton shared that the disability areas of the participants represented were Physical Disabilities (OI), Intellectual Disabilities, Emotional Disabilities, Specific Learning Disabilities, OHI-ADHD, Autism, Deaf and Hard of Hearing (HH), Blind and Visually Impaired (VI), and medically fragile. She shared that this year was the first year that they had a student from St. Mary's Home in Norfolk in Virginia, which is like a nursing home for children who are medically involved. The summit was able to provide accommodations needed for that student for participation. She shared that based on addresses of participants, there were youth and families from all eight Superintendent's Regions in Virginia.

Ms. Dalton shared that many parents indicated that they were unaware of the program. She stated that we need to work at getting the word out on the program and encourage participation. Ms. Dalton shared that the theme was Back to Basics discussing the tools for family and students to use. She stated that the keynote speaker Mr. Ronnie Sidney presented on self-advocacy and talking to your child. Ms. Dalton stated that Back to Basics included seven key areas, and she shared a video from <https://vimeo.com/221843900>.

Mr. Wilmer shared his past experiences in the program. He stated that if an individual is not progressing toward leadership they may be denied and another individual selected for participation in the program. Mr. Wilmer shared that staff of the Training and Technical Assistance Center (T/TAC) at Virginia Commonwealth University determine the application acceptance. He shared his personal experiences and how participating had changed his life gaining confidence and skills such as public speaking. Mr. Wilmer responded to a question concerning the copy write issues on these videos. He explained that a professional film crew is hired and they handle all the releases and permissions from publishers, and also releases from the parents for participants to be filmed. Mr. Wilmer expounded on how the youth summit is organized and the activities of the students, youth leaders, and programs.

Mr. Wilmer presented a video from <https://vimeo.com/226075382> in which he was the narrator during the video. The video highlighted interviews with various youth leaders and participants at

the summit sharing the benefits they received from participating. Numerous participants shared their thoughts and enjoyment of the summit.

Constituency Reports

Ms. MacArthur shared for the benefit of the new members that the SSEAC asks for constituency reports from the member’s area that highlight the happenings in the areas. A summary is all that is needed on the commonalities and issues, or something in an area that might need some supports from the SSEAC or VDOE.

<p>Jill Sowers Becker <i>Juvenile Justice</i></p>	<p>No report.</p>
<p>Dr. Brooke Blanks <i>Higher Education, Region 6</i></p>	<p>Shared that Mr. Darrin Minarik and his group has prepared a survey that they would to have disseminated as follows. Dear SSEAC members and friends,</p> <p>We need your voice and your thoughts! We want to develop a Center for Inclusive Practices at Radford University to serve the Commonwealth of Virginia. As we study how best to go about this, we need to hear from a variety of people with a variety of perspectives. We hope to include parents of children with disabilities, youth with disabilities, teachers, administrators, and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Would you be willing to share your thoughts with us about advancing inclusive education in Virginia and the potential goals to be addressed by a Center for Inclusive Practices? This will help us better understand the state of inclusion in Virginia’s public schools and the unique challenges and successes experienced by individuals and school communities.</p> <p>What are we asking you to do? Please go to the link below to participate in a user-friendly, completely anonymous, online survey. The survey consists of six open-ended questions, and it will take 10-20 minutes to complete. Here are the questions: What successes have you seen regarding inclusion in Virginia schools? What challenges exist regarding inclusion in Virginia schools? In what ways could a school environment be changed to create a more inclusive school community? What steps could a Center for Inclusive Practices take to improve inclusive opportunities in Virginia schools? How do you see a Center for Inclusive Education helping to guide and support the development of inclusive practice? http://radford.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eD5B672xSCAkpaA</p> <p>For the purposes of this survey and interview we use the definition of inclusion and inclusive education developed by researchers/educators Richard Villa and Jacqueline Thousand.</p> <p>“Inclusive education is both a vision and a practice. Namely, inclusive education is both the vision and practice of welcoming, valuing, empowering, and supporting the diverse academic, social/emotional, language, and communication learning of all students in shared environments and experiences for the purpose of attaining the desired goals of education. Inclusion is a belief that everyone belongs, regardless of need or perceived ability, and that all are valued and contributing members of a school community” (Villa & Thousand, 2016, p. 18).</p> <p>What will I get in return? You will have the satisfaction of knowing that you helped us plan our scope of work and goals for the new Center for Inclusive Practices.</p>

	<p>Please share this survey link and message with others! We hope you will get involved with the Center in the future!</p> <p>Thank you! Liz Altieri, Radford University, 540-831-5590, altieri@radford.edu Darren Minarik, Radford University, 540-831-7660, dminarik@radford.edu</p>
Jack M. Brandt <i>People with Disabilities Rep.</i>	No report.
Dr. Jeffrey D. Cassell <i>School Division Superintendent</i>	No report.
Jim Gallagher <i>Special Education Director</i>	No report.
Damon J. Garrison <i>Parent Rep., Region 2</i>	No report.
Christine Germeyer <i>Parent Rep., Region 4</i>	No report.
Margarete Hecker Jeffer <i>Parent Rep., Region 1</i>	No report.
Catherine King <i>Parent Rep., Region 6</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alleghany County SEAC Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Alleghany County Public Schools May 2, 2017. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Discussion of the state of the Division for the next school year <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Behavior Specialist–Melanie Mullineaux is our Behavior Specialist starting in the 2017-2018 school year. She will be working from Mountain View Elementary School (MVES) and will be supervising the behavior support program for the division. 2. Middle School Teach–The teach program is expanding to the middle school next school year with hard and soft job skills at the school covering landscaping and the cafeteria. 3. Reduction in special education case managers–MVES, Callaghan Elementary School (CES)–Melanie Mullineaux’s position will not be replaced at MVES and there is one special education position cut at CES. 4. Fulltime Mental Health Counselor–Erin Bartley has accepted the full time position with Alleghany County as the Mental Health Counselor. 5. Tier 2 Fusion Reading Programs at Clifton Middle School (CMS) and Alleghany High School (AHS)–Plans are in place to schedule classes for kids reading at a fourth grade level. 6. Tier 3 Reading Intervention to be determined. 7. Program assistant for the program at AHS for students with significant cognitive disabilities. A teacher assistant will be moved from CMS to AHS for this position. Angie Persinger will be moving to Sharon Elementary School to the early childhood special education (ECSE) classroom to assist with a new student there. B. Officers–Sammie Brookman will continue to be the Chair of the Advisory Committee. C. Other Discussion–We are looking for a new school psychologist and two speech language positions. We will be re-training the trainers for Safety Training. Our current trainers are Paula Bell, Melanie Mullineaux, Tracie Buchanan, Stephen Hodges and Will Fields. D. Tentative Future Meeting Dates: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. August 22, 2017

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. November TBD 3. February TBD 4. April TBD <p>E. Special Announcements and Recognition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cheryl R. Brown passed the Employment Support Professional Certification Council (ESPCC) exam making her officially a credentialed Employment Specialist. She passed her exam on the first attempt. This is the highest certification in the field. 2. Melanie Mullineaux passed the Behavior Analyst Certification Exam making her officially a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). Melanie also passed her exam on the first attempt. Only 20 percent or less of the people who take this exam pass it on the first attempt. This credential qualifies her for the licensure required to provide services in Applied Behavior Analysis and to be the Behavior Specialist for our Division. <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Congratulations, Cheryl and Melanie, and thank you for your work and dedication to our students and making their lives better!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Botetourt County SEAC—No report. 3. Craig County SEAC Craig County had our last SEAC meeting for the year on April 20 where we approved the annual plan, held officer elections, had a presentation of I'm Determined by one of our high school students, discussed future dates for meetings for next year, discussed the SEAC training that PEATC was holding in Roanoke and the update on the school budget. 4. Covington City SEAC—No report. 5. Danville County SEAC DPS Local Special Education Advisory Committee May 9, 2017, 5:30 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Welcome/Introductions B. Public Comments C. Approval of the Minutes D. Programs for next year? E. Discussion about meeting dates for 2017-2018 (Proposed dates) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local Special Education Advisory Committee 5:30 p.m. Central Office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. September 12, 2017 b. December 5, 2017 c. March 6, 2018 d. May 8, 2018 F. Election of Chairperson G. Jane H. Friend Award for Excellence in Exceptional Education 6. Floyd County SEAC—No report. 7. Franklin County SEAC—No report. The Franklin County SEAC is struggling with parent participation. We will do a public relations campaign when to school starts in August. Information on SEAC will be available at the Shining Stars Conference in Roanoke next week. 8. Henry County SEAC—No report. 9. Martinsville City Schools SEAC Martinsville City Schools SEAC has engaged in the following since March:
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. SEAC Meeting held April 13 at 6:30 p.m. Presentation: Parenting Children with Special Needs by Rosabelle Holmes, Coordinator of Alternative Programs, Martinsville City Public Schools (MCPS); B. SEAC Quarterly Newsletter distributed April 13; C. MCPS Annual Plan presented to the SEAC during the April 13 meeting; and D. Special Education Field Day on May 4 and SEAC members attended and assisted as needed. <p>10. Montgomery County SEAC—No report.</p> <p>11. Patrick County SEAC—No report.</p> <p>12. Pittsylvania County SEAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Pittsylvania County SEAC Summary Report since March 2016 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meeting Held: April 21, 2017 2. Personnel Update: SEAC Advisor, William Sandidge, retired on March 31, 2017. 3. Robin Haymore, Director of Special Education, and Ketina Wright, Special Education Coordinator, will serve as Co-SEAC Advisors for the 2017-2018 year. 4. Therefore, SEAC will be restructured in August for the upcoming year. B. The April meeting served as informational session. Items discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parents understand that Pittsylvania County Schools (PCS) proposal to create a Parent Portal link to PCS website with helpful special education resources would provide immediate accessibility. 2. Parents would like to conduct a fundraiser at least once a year. Funds will go toward needs of the students such as communication devices and other technology. 3. Parents request that communication be sent via postal service and email. C. Agenda Proposed by Co-Advisors for next meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Administrative Items 2. Acceptance of Bylaws (every year?) 3. \$\$\$ Amount 4. Defined Schedule of Meetings 5. Snapshot of Special Education at PCS 6. Personnel Structure 7. Overview of Curriculum (PreK-12) 8. Overview of Programming (PreK-12) 9. SY 2017-2018 Focus: Transition Planning and Adaptive Technology D. Goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Under Construction: Parent Portal 2. April: Autism 5K 3. Other Goals 4. Next meeting: Tentatively scheduled for Friday, August 25 at 1 p.m. <p>13. Roanoke City SEAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. There will be a new Special Education Director Haley Poulan. B. Parents Day has been tabled until more parent involvement and manpower can be obtained. C. Meetings will be in the evenings every other month. <p>14. Roanoke County SEAC—No report.</p> <p>15. Salem City SEAC—No report.</p>
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Matthew Luther <i>State Agency Rep.</i>	The Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) is trying to implement all the Workforce Innovative Opportunity Act (WIOA) regulations. Pre-Employment Transition Counselors (Pre-ETS) will begin providing services for the upcoming school year.
Alison MacArthur <i>Teacher Rep.</i>	No report.
Tashue Mason <i>Parent Rep., Region 8</i>	<p>Three individuals from Greensville County attended the 2017 Advocacy Symposium on June 1. They were Mrs. Rita Williams, Instructional Support Specialist, and two surrogate parents.</p> <p>The Emporia/Greenville Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) met on March 18, 2017. Mrs. Rita Williams, Instructional Support Specialist, Greenville County Public Schools, presented the Annual Plan for approval by school board. Parents were given information on the Parent's Portal availability on the district website; The Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center's (PEATC) Do You Know factsheet; and registration information for Move Initiative. Mrs. Tracy Lee, Family Engagement Specialist, SEFFE, VDOE, presented information on various special education issues. The meeting concluded with no comments or concerns.</p>
Erica Midboe <i>Transition Rep.</i>	No report.
Lisa Richard <i>Parent Rep., Region 7</i>	No report.
Lora Smith <i>Social Services</i>	No report.
Brian Summo <i>Private School Rep.</i>	No report.
Joan Sumner <i>Parent Rep., Region 3</i>	No report.
Cameron D. Wilmer <i>People with Disabilities Rep.</i>	No report.
Jacqui Wilson <i>Parent Rep., Region 5</i>	No report.
Suzanne Bowers <i>PEATC</i>	<p>As the Parent Training and Information Center for Virginia (PEATC), we serve the entire Commonwealth through one-on-one intakes with families and professionals, workshops and trainings, webinars, and various outreach initiatives. We have offices in Springfield, Hampton, Yorktown, Tazewell, and Salem. Ms. Bowers shared that they will be glad to come out to representative areas to present these workshops.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We have four new workshops: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. <u>Dyslexia Presentation and Simulation:</u> In this workshop, attendees will receive an overview of dyslexia and participate in an intensive simulation intended to generate robust conversation around children with dyslexia and their experiences in the classroom. The presentation will highlight the prevalence, characteristics, intervention and accommodations for dyslexia. The content will also review where dyslexia can be found in the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) resources and provide attendees with a broad base of additional resources that can be used or shared with families. The simulation is intended to give the participant the power of empathy, which can truly be attained in this short experience. B. <u>Understanding Evaluations:</u> This presentation takes you through the reasons for evaluations, timelines, and the eligibility meeting as well as a basic understanding and mean of the scores. It also covers the steps of a re-evaluation and the parental right to an Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE).

	<p>C. IEP (Individualized Education Program) Meetings: Ins and Outs: This presentation will help prepare parents of what to expect in the IEP meeting, to have a productive, student-focused meeting. From preplanning before the meeting to working together afterwards, this presentation will build relationships and self-advocacy skills of the parents while focusing on the needs of the student.</p> <p>D. Anatomy of an IEP: Like a biology student, this presentation will dissect the parts of the IEP document and examine their functions individually, learning their meanings and application. It will provide constructive and practical tips to help create an IEP that supports all the student’s needs.</p> <p>2. PEATC is proud to be one of the twelve partners to participate with the National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD) in the development of a new parent and educator tool. This conversation guide for parents and educators is designed to help understand specific learning disorders and the role of the terms dyslexia, dysgraphia, and dyscalculia, particularly as part of the IEP process. The handout can be found at http://www.nclld.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/SLD-Conversations.D3.pdf</p> <p>3. SAVE THE DATE for PEATC’s first official fundraiser in Charlottesville, Virginia on Saturday, October 14, 2017.</p>
<p>Heidi Lawyer <i>Virginia Board for Disabilities</i></p>	<p>The Virginia Board for People with Disabilities (VBPD) has released its 2017 Assessment of the Disability Services System Briefs on Education and Employment. These are available on the VBPD website at www.vaboard.org under the Policy Tab. They are also available on the Legislative site at www.lis.virginia.gov RD 166 and 167. Limited print copies are available.</p> <p>The VBPD Class of 2018 Partners in Policymaking will be September 2017 through April 2018. In the fall, we will begin planning for next year’s Youth Leadership Training. An interagency team comprised of the VBPD, Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC), Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (VDARS), Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (VDBVI), and the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (VFHY) had a series of meetings to examine the current Youth Leadership Forum and make recommendations for improvements. Recruitment has been challenging because unlike the first years of this program, there are now, fortunately, many more available training programs for youth with disabilities. With the VBPD approval, the program has been renamed the Youth Leadership Academy and it will be open not only to rising juniors and seniors with disabilities but also to rising sophomores. The structure of the program will remain a four-day program at a university campus. However, the VBPD staff is planning more intensive recruitment efforts working with their organizational partners to improve outreach; possibly conduct webinars; and provide additional shorter leadership training during the year as part of the programs that other organizations are holding. In this way, we hope that we can reach more youth in total but equally important, reach youth in underserved areas.</p> <p>We will be evaluating our next set of competitive grant proposals in July and issue awards in August. The areas focused on during this request for proposal (RFP) cycle were housing, healthcare, and employment. The VBPD continues to work with VDOE on the grant they received for educating families on critical decision-making points and our other awards. We are working closely with our sister Developmental Disabilities (DD) Councils and our national organization, the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD), regarding federal budget issues. The President’s budget zeroes out funding for DD Councils like the VBPD as well as Statewide Independent Living Councils and significant reduces funding for the state Brain Injury Grant programs. It seeks to combine the three entities into a new program</p>

	<p>that would receive \$45 million in total funds, a \$57 million reduction. Currently DD Councils are a \$73 million program. We are all advocating keeping the DD Councils in the <i>Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act</i> (DD Act) with our DD Network partners. In Virginia, that is the Partnership for People with Disabilities at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) and the disAbility Law Center of Virginia (dLCV). Our national organization has received positive feedback from some in Congress, and the Senate is using the 2017 budget as a starting point, not the President’s proposed budget, which is positive. However, even if the structure remains the same, it is possible that a reduction in funding overall for the DD Councils could occur as a compromise. The VBPD is operating business as usual. Any changes would not hit us for at least a year and we should have plenty of time for advance planning. It is something that we will be keeping a close eye on of course. The VBPD has also been actively educating its constituents on the impact of the proposed Medicaid cuts on people with disabilities should the House or Senate bills repealing and replacing the <i>Affordable Care Act</i> (ACA) pass.</p>
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Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

Friday, July 21

Committee Members:

- Mrs. Jill Sowers Becker, Member-at-Large
- Dr. Brooke Blanks
- Ms. Suzanne Bowers, Ex-officio
- Mr. Jack M. Brandt (Absent)
- Dr. Jeffrey D. Cassell (Absent)
- Mr. Jim Gallagher (Absent)
- Mr. Damon J. Garrison
- Mrs. Christine Germeyer, Vice Chair
- Ms. Margarete Hecker Jeffer
- Mrs. Catherine King, Secretary
- Ms. Heidi L. Lawyer, Ex-officio
- Mr. Matthew Luther, M.Ed.
- Ms. Alison MacArthur, Chair
- Ms. Tashue Mason
- Mrs. Erica Midboe, Member-at-Large (Absent)
- Ms. Lisa Richard (Absent)
- Ms. Lora Smith

- Mr. Brian Summo, Member-at-Large
- Ms. Joan K. Sumner
- Mr. Cameron D. Wilmer
- Ms. Jacqui Wilson, Member-at-Large

VDOE Representatives:

- Ms. Patricia V. “Pat” Haymes
- Mrs. Tracy Lee
- Mr. Henry J. “Hank” Millward, Jr.
- Mr. Jeff Phenicie
- Ms. Denise A. Throckmorton (Recording)

Other Participants:

- Ms. Mona Siddiqui, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General (OAG)

Members of the General Public:

- Ms. Beth Haw

Call to Order

Ms. MacArthur called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

Presentation of Documents

Mr. Millward distributed four documents to the committee members.

1. The draft of the commendations, recognitions, and recommendations (pgs. 8 – 11) of the Virginia State Special Education Advisory Committee (SSEAC) Annual Report July 2016-June 2017.
2. Standing Subcommittees roles, responsibilities, and definitions.
3. 2017-2018 SSEAC Standing Subcommittees Matrix.
4. State Special Education Advisory Committee Guidelines for Public Comment (Adopted April 27, 2006, revised July 13, 2006, revised March 30, 2017).

Subcommittee Meetings

The goals and objectives of the following subcommittee are outlined below.

1. **Student Achievement:** This subcommittee focuses on achievement data and the goals under the State Plan for students with disabilities. This subcommittee focuses not only on the federal expectations, but also on the growth in achievement for students with disabilities and strategies that are being promoted at the state level to meet expectations.
2. **Student Outcomes:** This subcommittee focuses on data relative to the State Performance Plan (SPP) and the Annual Performance Report (APR). This subcommittee conducts specific analysis around identified areas of concern including dropout rates, graduation rates, transition, discipline of students with disabilities, and assessment.
3. **Policy and Regulations:** This subcommittee focuses on initiatives at the state level that either result in policy and regulations or have an impact on policy and regulations as they pertain to students with disabilities.

The Student Achievement, Student Outcomes, and Policy and Regulation met to discuss the following:

- Identify a chairperson for the subcommittee.
 - Student Achievement Subcommittee Chair is Mr. Summo.
 - Student Outcomes Subcommittee Chair is Mr. Luther.
 - Policy and Regulations Subcommittee Ms. Bowers and Ms. Jeffer are Co-chairs. See Attachment D, 2017-2018 SSEAC Standing Subcommittee Matrix.
- Review previous meeting public comment report and identify issues that subcommittee might need to address.
- Review, revise, develop, and propose individual subcommittee goals and objectives for 2017-2018.
- Additionally, all subcommittees were asked to start their meeting with a discussion on the commendations and recommendations portion that will be included in the Special Education Advisory Committee's (SSEAC) Annual Report; and then present a summary of their discussions, changes, and revisions to be discussed and voted upon by the entire committee.

Subcommittee goals were tabled until the next meeting allowing time for consideration to what the subcommittees would like to work on.

Reconvene as Full Committee

Ms. MacArthur reconvened the committee at 11:10 a.m. and asked the various subcommittees to discuss their ideas for the annual plan commendation section. There was group discussion on the proposed changes. Dr. Blanks made a motion to allow the Executive Committee to make the final decisions on the report. Ms. MacArthur called for a voice vote. There were no nays and the motion passed.

Ms. MacArthur asked the various subcommittee groups to discuss their ideas for the annual plan recommendations section. Discussion on recommendations was held.

Public Comments

Ms. MacArthur shared that any reference to video public comments will be removed until further guidance is received from the BOE. The BOE acknowledged yesterday evening that they have the SSEAC recommendations for consideration and will get back to the committee shortly. The motion was made by Ms. Wilson to continue with the public guidelines as previously drafted by the committee and was seconded by Ms. Smith. Ms. MacArthur stated that Ms. Throckmorton's and Mr. Millward's email addresses will be removed and replaced with the SSEAC email address of SSEAC@doe.virginia.gov.

Ms. MacArthur called for additional questions or comments and there were none. She called for a voice vote to submit the amended guidelines to the BOE. There were no nays and the motion carried.

Future Meeting Agenda Discussion

Topics for future meetings

1. *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA) Application will be submitted by the October SSEAC meeting. Request a briefing to focus on the impact of students with disabilities.
2. Statewide Online IEP System demonstration.
3. Back to Basics Update.
4. Assistant Superintendent's Update and Report. Request Profile of a Graduate Update.
5. Forty-two percent of Children with disabilities in juvenile detention center are in special education. Request an update, more information, and briefing.
6. Social Emotional and Mental Health, not having enough resources for children facing mental health crisis. Request information on this topic.
7. *CSA Comprehensive Services Act* (CSA) funding General Assembly facing pressure to find the mandated funds. Request a briefing on this topic.

Adjourn

Ms. MacArthur adjourned the meeting at 12:03 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings

- October 5-6, 2017
- December 7-8, 2017
- March 8-9, 2018
- July 19-20, 2018 *Executive Committee only meeting on July 18, 2018
- October 4-5, 2018
- December 6-7, 2018