

***State Special Education Advisory Committee (SSEAC)***  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**July 22 - 24, 2015**

**Wednesday, July 22, 2015**

**Members Present:** Mr. Adam Amick, Ms. Christy Evanko, Ms. Alison MacArthur, Mr. Darren Minarik, Mr. Wyllys VanDerwerker

**Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Representatives Present:** Dr. Suzanne Creasey

Mr. Darren Minarik called the meeting of the executive committee to order at 6:15 p.m. The purpose of this meeting was to develop a draft report to the Board of Education. Dr. Suzanne Creasey prepared the fact-based pages which were drawn from the minutes of meetings over the past year. The members present reviewed and edited the pages provided. The committee then used information developed by subcommittees at the March meeting to develop draft commendations and recommendations. 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 whole committee to submit to the Board of Education. By regulation, the report must be submitted to the Board before October 1 of each year.

**Thursday, July 23, 2015**

**Members Present:** Mr. Adam Amick, Ms. Jennifer Cooper, Ms. Christy Evanko, Dr. Lisa Floyd, Mr. Damon Garrison, Ms. Catherine King, Ms. Alison MacArthur, Ms. Tashue Mason, Mr. Darren Minarik, Ms. Lisa Richard, Ms. Joan Sumner, Ms. Frederique Vincent, Mr. Wyllys VanDerwerker

**Members Absent:** Mr. Jack Brandt, Mr. Brenden Folmar, Dr. Scott Kizner, Ms. Erica Midboe, Ms. Jacqui Wilson

**Ex-officio Members Present:** Ms. Heather Arbeen for Ms. Suzanne Bowers (PEATC), Ms. Heidi Lawyer (VBPD)

**Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Representatives Present:** Dr. Suzanne Creasey, Mr. John Eisenberg, Ms. Pat Haymes, Dr. Samantha Hollins, Mr. Jeff Phenicie

**Office of the Attorney General:** Ms. Mona Siddiqui

**Call to Order**

Mr. Darren Minarik, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The committee members introduced themselves. It was noted that five new members were present representing Juvenile Justice and parent representatives from four regions. New members were appointed at the June meeting of the Virginia Board of Education. New members are Dr. Lisa Floyd from the Department of Juvenile Justice; Mr. Damon Garrison from Region 2; Ms. Tashue Mason from Region 8; Ms. Lisa Richard from Region 7; and Ms. Joan Sumner from Region 3.

## **Business Session**

### **Approval of Agenda**

The committee was asked to review the proposed agenda. Ms. Christy Evanko made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, and Ms. Jennifer Cooper seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes were distributed electronically prior to the meeting and members were encouraged to come prepared with any changes. Mr. Adam Amick made a motion to approve the minutes, and Ms. Catherine King seconded the motion. All approved except for new members who abstained. Those who abstained were Dr. Lisa Floyd, Mr. Damon Garrison, Ms. Tashue Mason, Ms. Lisa Richard, and Ms. Joan Sumner.

### **Report Follow-up to Public Comment from Previous Meeting**

Follow-up letters are in process and will be sent consistent with the committee's discussion at the last meeting.

### **Selection of Meeting Dates for 2016**

The committee members discussed dates for consideration for meetings in 2016 and worked toward consensus on the dates. Ms. Christy Evanko made the motion to approve the following dates for meetings for 2016:

- April 7-8, 2016
- July 28-29, 2016
- September 22-23, 2016
- December 1-2, 2016

Ms. Alison MacArthur seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

## **Development and Approval of the Annual Report to the Board of Education**

The draft of the annual report was reviewed with the committee by Mr. Darren Minarik, Chair. It was suggested that the first five pages be reviewed and approved. There was discussion about the pages and the group worked toward consensus on the approval of the fact based pages. Ms. Alison MacArthur moved to approve the first five pages, and Ms. Christy Evanko seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

## **Presentation**

## Update on Restraint and Seclusion Requirements

- **Ms. Patricia Haymes, Director**

Office of Dispute Resolution and Administrative Services, VA Department of Education

Ms. Haymes provided an overview of the process and considerations during the upcoming process for promulgating regulations on the use of restraint and seclusion. Her slides are available with these minutes at:

[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/committees\\_advisory/special\\_ed/meetings/index.shtm](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/committees_advisory/special_ed/meetings/index.shtm).

### Working Lunch

The Committee adjourned for a working lunch at 12:00 p.m. and was asked to discuss the possible areas of focus for subcommittees for the next year.

### Public Comments

The committee reconvened at 1:00 p.m. There were two public comments. One was focused on the continued need for appropriate reading instruction for students with dyslexia and the commenter also expressed appreciation for the attention the SSEAC has paid to this issue. The second comment was related to difficulties a parent has had with their school division and the problems getting IEP issues resolved and the IEP completed.

### Assistant Superintendent's Report

Mr. John Eisenberg

Mr. Eisenberg presented information on a number of initiatives and reports. His slides are available with these minutes at:

[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/committees\\_advisory/special\\_ed/meetings/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/committees_advisory/special_ed/meetings/index.shtml).

### Constituency Reports

Name	Report
<b>Mr. Adam Amick</b> <i>People with Disabilities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No Report</li></ul>
<b>Mr. Jack Brandt</b> <i>People with Disabilities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Absent/ No Report</li></ul>
<b>Ms. Jennifer Cooper</b> <i>Foster Care - DSS</i>	<u>Vision 21: Linking Systems of Care for Children and Youth</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Commonwealth of Virginia is one of two states in the country selected by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) to serve as a demonstration site to identify and link systems of care for children and youth who have been victimized by a broad spectrum of crimes and other traumatic events. The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) is the project's lead agency in partnership with the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services. Other partners include the Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, and Department of Education as well as representatives from the Office of the Secretary of Health</li></ul>

Name	Report
	<p>and Human Resources, the Children’s Cabinet, and others. This initiative, for which the 15-month planning period began January 1st, aims to ensure that every child entering any of the relevant systems is assessed for victimization, that children and their families are provided comprehensive and coordinated services to fully address their needs, and that practices and policies are established to sustain this approach long term.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Vision 21: Linking Systems of Care for Children and Youth project is tasked with developing a brief screening tool to be implemented across systems. This tool will be used as a means for identifying child and youth victims of crime in a variety of settings, including education. Professionals in the education field will have access to this tool and accompanying resource manual in order to appropriately identify child/youth victims of crime and link them to appropriate and effective community interventions.</li> </ul> <p><u>Post Adoptive Services</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On July 1, 2015 VDSS released the brochure on post adoption services that was required under HB 8121/ SB 835. You can access the brochure online at: <a href="http://www.dss.virginia.gov/files/division/dfs/ap/intro_page/pos/post-adoption-pamphlet.pdf">http://www.dss.virginia.gov/files/division/dfs/ap/intro_page/pos/post-adoption-pamphlet.pdf</a></li> <li>• Additionally, VDSS continues to develop our post adoption services webpage. The information is currently located under the Post Adoption sub-header at <a href="http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/ap/index.cgi">http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/ap/index.cgi</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Ms. Christy Evanko</b> <i>Parent Representative, Region 1</i></p>	<p>Region 1 LSEACs are enjoying a well-deserved break. However, the following information was received from the Colonial Heights SEAC.</p> <p><u>Successes have included:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elementary parents feel that their children are known and cared about by the whole school, not just the faculty/staff "assigned" to them</li> <li>• Lots of involvement between schools and organizations that serve children in special education (The Arc, Special Olympics, etc.)</li> <li>• Relevant staff (Director of Special Ed, Family Resource Coordinator) easy to reach and very responsive to questions and concerns</li> </ul> <p><u>Issues identified include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transition from elementary into middle is tough; supports seem to disappear and kids are not adequately prepared for class changes, lockers, bells ringing all day. Leadership at both levels working on ways to soften that change.</li> <li>• Need to diversify our PE offerings -- children in special ed who have no physical limitations should be more encouraged to do regular PE, and children with physical limitations should have some time in the school gym instead of modified PE coming to them</li> <li>• Recent issue with bus aide uncovered a major communication problem (aide was arrested for hitting children on the bus). Parent of the children who were hit were involved in the investigation, but parents of other children on the bus were told nothing. Local news broke the story on Facebook two days after the arrest, and that is where most parents found out what their children might have been witnessing on the bus. Working to make division leadership understand that they need to stay ahead of the story and tell parents what they can *before* anything turns up in the media. This is *especially* important with a bus full of nonverbal children, because holding information back gives the appearance that the schools are relying on their silence just as much as the alleged abuser is.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Dr. Lisa Floyd</b> <i>Juvenile Justice</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is pleased to be a participant on the State Special Education Advisory Council (SSEAC) as 40% of our population includes students with special needs.</li> <li>• DJJ has a good relationship with VDOE and is working to strengthen that by crafting a Memorandum of Understanding. The MOU will include components</li> </ul>

Name	Report
	<p>tailored to our population to assist with bringing accountability to DJJ as certain accountability measures imposed on school divisions do not apply. We are also working to improve communication. Decisions made by VDOE affect DJJ; likewise decisions made by DJJ affect VDOE. Examples include decisions VDOE is currently crafting regarding restraint and seclusion and decisions DJJ is currently crafting regarding length of stay.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DJJ is working on the reentry process for students, which includes addressing transition needs. Our Director of Special Education retired this past year. The new Director comes on board July 27, 2015.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mr. Brendan Folmar</b> <i>Private Education</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Absent/ No Report</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mr. Damon Garrison</b> <i>Parent Representative, Region 2</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Report</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ms. Catherine King</b> <i>Parent Representative, Region 6</i></p>	<p>Reports were received from the following localities:</p> <p><u>Botetourt County SEAC</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Botetourt County School Division’s Special Education Program is one of four statewide to receive a 100 percent score through requirements listed by the Virginia Department of Education.</li> <li>• The BCPS Division Performance Report included the mandated 14 indicators.</li> <li>• Goals for continued compliance and requirements included continuing to monitor both compliances and results; working closely with administration in the School Improvement Process; and supporting efforts in the division to improve results for students with disabilities.</li> <li>• They had an evening focused on “What Will My Child Need to Know for Kindergarten?” Botetourt County teachers shared kindergarten readiness skills and provided information and activities to help parents prepare their child for kindergarten and learn how teachers plan for differentiation.</li> </ul> <p><u>Craig County SEAC</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 2014-2015 Craig County SEAC has been focusing on reorganization. A slate of officers was appointed and parent membership increased this year. By-laws were adopted and the committee chose Robert’s Rules of Order for operating their meetings.</li> </ul> <p><u>Henry County SEAC</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stephanie Bakely, Regional Director of Waiver Services for Strengthening Our System, Inc. spoke to the group about services available. Her office in Floyd County assists in providing in home residential supports for individuals with an ID or DD Waiver. Her company also provides service facilitation for individuals through the EDCD Waiver. Services are offered in the home and are based on individual needs of the clients and family. Credentials of the in home service providers include background and drug testing. They must be at least 18 years old and have a high school diploma or GED.</li> <li>• Linda Albrecht shared a flyer with the group for funding up to \$400.00 available for respite care through a program from DARS, Department of Aging and Rehabilitation Services.</li> <li>• Rebecca Wells shared updates to the Henry County website. “Parent Connect” is now renamed “Family Connect,” and families are encouraged to be part of their child’s education.</li> <li>• Laurel Park Middle School is participating in a pilot program for the “I’m Determined Project,” which encourages students to take an active role in their IEP meetings and lead the meeting. A student summit is being scheduled in the near future.</li> </ul>

Name	Report
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs. Wells shared the Child Count comparison with the group which includes each disability category and the total for the past 6 years. For 2014 Child Count, Henry County Schools was 14.4% for total enrollment (excluding pre-school students.)</li> <li>• Miscellaneous information: flyers were distributed on summer camps and Autism Awareness Day on April 18 at Smith River Sports Complex. Ms. Mullen discussed the lack of sports programs available for children with disabilities.</li> </ul> <p><u>Montgomery County SEAC</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two SEAC meetings were held in April and May. At the April meeting, SEAC officer nominations and next-year calendar planning were discussed. At their May meeting, SEAC officers were elected.</li> </ul> <p><u>Roanoke City SEAC</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The October 2014 Parent’s Day was held at Patrick Henry High School, and 60 exhibitors participated with approximately 300 attendees. Dr. Brice Jackson was Keynote Speaker, and this was a successful community outreach program.</li> <li>• Buddy Club for Middle and Junior High continued to be successful for the 2014-15 year. The Special Education and General Education participants were both delighted to work with each other. Many of the school staff reported lots of fun activities, shared smiles and laughs between the members. They hope to continue to grow and nurture this program.</li> <li>• The Committee held several training meetings throughout the past year. Patti Centin was a gracious presenter, and member Pam Crump brought forth the issue of Epilepsy and training issues. Through Ms. Crump’s efforts, training for Bus Aides and drivers in CPR and First Aid has started and will continue until they have all been trained.</li> <li>• Upcoming Year: Parent’s Day will be held on October 17 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at James Madison Middle School. This year’s event will be held jointly with Roanoke Police Department’s Officer Travis Akin’s Fall Festival. They look forward to this being a continued successful event of community outreach.</li> <li>• Elections were held at the May 2015 meeting. Emily Berry (parent) will be the Chair for the 2015-2016 year.</li> </ul> <p><u>Roanoke County SEAC</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roanoke County has been working on Makerspaces this year and do not have much to share from their local SEAC. Makerspaces are creative, Do It Yourself spaces where people can gather to create, invent, and learn. In libraries they often have 3D printers, software, electronics, craft and hardware supplies and tools, and more. They are all so proud and excited about the makerspaces.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Dr. Scott Kizner</b> <i>Local Education Officials</i></p>	<p>Below is a summary from American Association of School Administrators (AASA) regarding what the organization should focus on in the next IDEA reauthorization.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special Education Due Process: Improving the special education due process system is essential. AASA previously developed a bold proposal for how to re-imagine the due process system in IDEA. You can read the proposal here. I am attaching slides to this email that summarize the proposal as well. Based on a discussion of the AASA proposal, there was strong support for mandating that IEP facilitation process be part of the dispute resolution model that districts and parents utilize. We also discussed replacing the due process hearing system with a system that is based on an expert consultancy model, which will be a difficult goal to achieve in the reauthorization, but one that seems worth pursuing. There was also support for eliminating resolution sessions, but maintaining mediation as an option as long as it was a final step prior to litigation. Note: in the original AASA proposal mediation takes place between the facilitation and the consultancy model, but the group believed it would make more sense to have mediation occur</li> </ul>

Name	Report
	<p>after the consultancy. There was also a proposal that the consultant should be allowed to make recommendations related to any compensatory educational services that a district may need to offer a child, which may warrant further discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Burden of Proof: There was broad agreement among working group members that IDEA must re-clarify that the burden of proof is on parents in special education disputes. Currently, NJ, NY, NV, CT, IL and DE have passed laws that have shifted the burden of proof onto the district, which means that the district must provide proof that the IEP confers FAPE.</li> <li>• IEE: There were concerns by a majority of working group members present that IEE requests are becoming too burdensome for districts and are used by parents, at times, to garner additional unnecessary services or a new placement. Working group members suggesting setting a time limit for requesting an IEE of 3 months from the time of the initial evaluation. In light of a recent letter by OSEP, the group also considered requiring parents to delineate all the areas they would like the child to be assessed for special education eligibility before the district's initial evaluation as some parents are requesting numerous evaluations for disability areas not discussed with the district originally.</li> <li>• Transition: Transition must begin at age 14 not 16. No other recommendations for amending the statute or regulations related to transition were agreed to by working group members.</li> <li>• Disproportionality: There was opposition to a national discrepancy standard for identifying disproportionality. There was support for states to inform districts if they are near the cusp of being identified for significant disproportionality and providing technical assistance to districts to address significant disproportionality before they are classified as having it. There was also a brief discussion of eliminating the mandatory 15% set-aside for CEIS if significant disproportionality is found.</li> <li>• Placements: There was some support by members for including language indicating that if multiple placement options confer an educational benefit for a child, the placement with the lowest financial burden on the district should take precedent.</li> <li>• Discipline: There was agreement that there must be a more reasonable injury standard other than "serious bodily injury" for when a student can be unilaterally removed from a school setting.</li> <li>• Maintenance of Effort: There was support for AASA's maintenance of effort bill, the BOLD Flexibility in IDEA Act (HR 2965). Details on the bill are attached. (I will be enlisting your support soon to garner additional co-sponsors for this bill!) We did not discuss whether we should push for a change to the MoE threshold to 90% from 100%, but that is something that we should discuss soon.</li> <li>• Private School Child Find: The district should only be responsible for performing child find for parentally placed private school students living within its borders, not child find for all students attending a private school located within the district borders.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ms. Alison MacArthur</b> <i>Teacher</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A request was made for an update on the statewide online IEP system; teachers are very excited about this as some systems are not using an online IEP system.</li> <li>• There was a request for teacher training regarding the death of student. There is a need for added support of what to do once the grief counselors have left. Teachers feel that they are at a loss. (They have trouble dealing with things themselves along with helping their students handle the situation.)</li> <li>• Concerns were expressed regarding the added duties of planning for classes along with completing the responsibilities associated with special education students. Teachers are feeling overwhelmed.</li> </ul>

Name	Report
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerns were shared about the effects of testing for special education students, and teachers would like to see a return of modified tests for students for whom it would be appropriate.</li> <li>Concerns increase regarding 504 plans becoming more of the responsibility for the special education teachers.</li> <li>Teachers are excited about the reauthorization of ESEA. They would like/hope that there will be a focus on special education students.</li> </ul>
<b>Ms. Tashue Mason</b> <i>Parent Representative,  Region 8</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greensville County Schools' SEAC has focused over the past year on transition from secondary to post-secondary settings. Speakers provided information about services available across the state.</li> </ul>
<b>Ms. Erica Midboe</b> <i>Transition and Vocational  Services</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A concern noted in the Arlington County community is the lack of county-wide implementation of a social skills curriculum in the elementary schools. A new social skills curriculum has begun in middle and high schools, but the county has not yet put anything in place that targets younger students. They would like to see APS adopt a "social thinking" curriculum for high functioning students with ASD to take advantage of early intervention.</li> </ul>
<b>Mr. Darren Minarik</b> <i>Higher Education</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Darren Minarik participated in a PEATC webinar on July 16th, sharing information about the SSEAC and his role as SSEAC chair and university representative. He encouraged parents to become more involved in communicating with the SSEAC regional parent reps about the programs having impacts in their school communities as well as bringing up concerns that might be relevant within other school systems too. The archived webinar is located at: <a href="https://youtu.be/4-beoKD4UqY">https://youtu.be/4-beoKD4UqY</a></li> <li>The Radford University School of Teacher Education and Leadership and RU T/TAC sponsored a co-teaching professional development with Dr. Wendy Murawski at the Roanoke Higher Education Center on March 27, 2015. Dr. Brooke Blanks, Assistant Professor in Special Education, organized the event in collaboration with RU T/TAC coordinators. Students from the RU teacher preparation program in special education and elementary education along with teachers from area school systems participated.</li> </ul>
<b>Ms. Lisa Richard</b> <i>Parent Representative,  Region 7</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Bristol SEAC met four times this year with a focus on transition, disability awareness and parent involvement.</li> <li>A disability awareness fair with rising 6th graders was held to increase awareness and compassion before middle school. In addition, the Parent Resource Center (PRC) sponsored a disability essay contest based on friendship with the help of the SEAC.</li> <li>The SEAC members were invited to attend Hank Millward's presentation on diploma options in the state of VA.</li> <li>The SEAC was presented information on new transition initiatives in the school system and shown a video presentation by the teacher and nonprofit who coordinated the program.</li> <li>In May, the SEAC members were invited to volunteer at the parent involvement fair sponsored by the PRC through a grant provided to Bristol city by the VDOE.</li> <li>The fair was attended by students, parents, teachers, sped and school board members with over 400 people in attendance.</li> <li>Brad Bizell, Assistant Professor in Educational Leadership at Radford University provided co-teaching professional development in 2014-2015 to Radford High School and Dalton Intermediate School for co-teaching teams in a variety of subject areas. Plans are being made through the local Radford SEAC to seek funding and expand professional development to Belle Heth Elementary for 2015-2016.</li> </ul>

Name	Report
<p><b>Ms. Joan Sumner</b> <i>Parent Representative, Region 3</i></p>	<p>The Northumberland County SEAC, with the help of the Director of Special Education, held a Transition Fair on February 21, 2015. The Northumberland SEAC extended invitations to surrounding counties SEACs (Lancaster, Richmond and Essex) and it was held at a local technical center to allow for maximum participation of surrounding counties. The Transition Fair included representatives from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A local attorney presented information on topics related to Powers of Attorney and establishing trusts for children as they approach their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.</li> <li>• The Northumberland County Commonwealth Attorney discussed possible legal issues related to children with special needs.</li> <li>• The Department of Motor Vehicles provided information regarding restricted licenses.</li> <li>• The Richmond County local police provided Child ID information and fingerprinting for children.</li> <li>• Information was available from Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center.</li> <li>• A Northumberland County Special Education teacher presented the I'm Determined program that is in place in Northumberland County Public Schools.</li> <li>• A Northumberland Middle School student presented her "I'm Determined" power point.</li> <li>• A representative from VDOE spoke about dispute resolution and provided resources for parents.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mr. Wyllys VanDerwerker</b> <i>Local Directors of Special Education</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Virginia Council of Administrators of Special Education conducted an outstanding leadership conference in May.</li> <li>• Dr. Stuart Robertshaw, "Mr. Humor," a retired Professor of Psychology and Special Education at the University of Wisconsin La Crosse, as well as an attorney, shared his personal journey which began in September 1987 when he started a review of the research on the benefits of humor. He presented what he has learned about the psychological and physiological benefits of humor and laughter as they relate to taking care of ourselves, our friends and our loved ones. Mr. Humor motivated the dedicated administrators as he shared his favorite Zen proverb for special education leaders: "You should sit in meditation for 20 minutes every day -- unless you're too busy. Then, you should sit for an hour."</li> <li>• John O'Connor led school sessions on school improvement. He facilitated numerous conversations related to the work dedicated to improving the performance and achievement of students with disabilities. At the Thursday, May 22, keynote address, John O'Connor provided a roadmap to successful results driven instruction. During the afternoon breakout session, he provided participants the opportunity to focus more intensively on increasing the effectiveness of teacher instruction.</li> <li>• During the conference, VCASE announced that VCASE member, Dr. Jane Quenneville, Alexandria City Public Schools' executive director of special education, has been elected to the Board of Directors for the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). Dr. Quenneville, who started her career as an occupational therapist, will begin her three-year term on the board January 2015.</li> <li>• VCASE is looking forward to the October Fall Leadership conference to be held at Short Pump, VA.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ms. Frederique Vincent</b> <i>Parent Representative, Region 4</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Region 4 SSEAC Representative reported that she had the opportunity to meet in person with several of the region's SEAC Chairs during a one-day training organized by PEATC in the city of Manassas in June. It was an opportunity for attendees to establish needed contacts and learn or relearn the basics for successful SEAC operations. The group included one Director of Special Education and one Principal.</li> </ul>

Name	Report
<b>Ms. Jacqui Wilson</b> <i>Parent Representative,  Region 5</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Absent/ No Report</li> </ul>
<b>Ms. Heather Arbeen for  Ms. Suzanne Bowers</b> <i>Ex-officio member, PEATC</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PEATC partnered with the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to host eight regional SEAC trainings for SEAC chairs/vice chairs and Directors of Special Education in each school division. We received positive feedback from the 137 participants.</li> <li>• In addition, PEATC is currently holding our Parents as Collaborative Leaders (PACL) trainings this summer. This year we are targeting specific groups of participants. The remaining trainings are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ August 5-7, 2015- Military members, dependents and professionals who serve them (Prince William County)</li> <li>○ August 19-21, 2015—Foster Care and Kinship families. (Irvington, VA)</li> <li>○ August 26-28, 2015- PACL presented in Spanish (Suffolk, VA)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• September 19, 2015 is PEATC’s first Annual “Parent and Youth Empowerment Summit” being held at the Hyatt Fairfax at Fair Lakes, 12777 Fair Lakes Circle, Fairfax, VA 22033.</li> <li>• PEATC and VDOE are partnering to present a “504 Conference for Professionals from Virginia schools”. This conference will be held at the Doubletree by Hilton Charlottesville, 990 Hilton Heights Road, Charlottesville, VA.</li> <li>• Registration for all of our events are located on the PEATC website (<a href="http://www.peatc.org">www.peatc.org</a>) or by calling Sylvia 703-923-0010 / 800-869-6782.</li> </ul>
<b>Ms. Heidi Lawyer</b> <i>VBPD</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board will be conducting its next Partners in Policymaking Class beginning in September 2015. For budgetary reasons, we have moved to an every other year cycle for the training programs. The next Youth Leadership Forum will be held in July 2016.</li> <li>• We are also in the process of developing an alumni outreach program so we can better network our training program alumni and help facilitate grassroots advocacy and have a better idea of what our alumni are doing in their communities.</li> <li>• The Board is about to develop its next federally required 5 Year state plan for the 2017-2022 which will begin in October 2016. The state plan will include goals, objectives, and target areas for the next 5 years. We recently conducted a public comment survey and received 74 responses, much higher than in previous years.</li> <li>• The Board continues to be involved in a multitude of activities and workgroups supporting implementation of the DOJ Settlement Agreement. Many of those focus on some aspect of Medicaid waiver redesign.</li> <li>• We may have a competitive grant cycle this year or the Board may determine it wants to hold funds to support the next 5 year state plan.</li> <li>• We will be conducting a consumer satisfaction survey in September. The link will go out in our e-news that Suzanne forwards to you. We welcome your feedback and dissemination to others who may be interested in completing it.</li> </ul>

**Work on the Annual Report**

The committee discussed further the annual plan with a focus on the Commendations section. While it seems that the group agreed on the commendations, no motion was made. It was decided that the group would convene in subcommittees on Friday to discuss and make recommendations regarding the commendations and recommendations sections of the report.

Mr. Adam Amick moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Jennifer Cooper seconded and it was unanimously agreed to adjourn at 4:15 p.m.

### **Adjourn**

### **Friday, March 27, 2015**

**Members Present:** Mr. Adam Amick, Ms. Jennifer Cooper, Ms. Christy Evanko, Dr. Lisa Floyd, Mr. Damon Garrison, Ms. Catherine King, Ms. Alison MacArthur, Ms. Tashue Mason, Mr. Darren Minarik, Ms. Lisa Richard, Ms. Joan Sumner, Ms. Frederique Vincent, Mr. Wyllys VanDerwerker

**Members Absent:** Mr. Jack Brandt, Mr. Brenden Folmar, Dr. Scott Kizner, Ms. Erica Midboe, Ms. Jacqui Wilson

**Ex-officio Members Present:** Ms. Heather Arbeen for Ms. Suzanne Bowers (PEATC), Ms. Heidi Lawyer (VBPD)

**Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Representatives Present:** Dr. Suzanne Creasey, Mr. John Eisenberg, Ms. Pat Haymes, Dr. Samantha Hollins, Mr. Jeff Phenicie

### **Call to Order**

Ms. Darren Minarik, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and subcommittees were directed to meet to discuss and make recommendations regarding the commendations and recommendations sections of the report.

The group reconvened as a whole group to discuss the commendations and recommendations sections of the report. After much discussion and consideration of a number of issues to be included in each section, the group developed consensus on the items to be included in the report. Ms. Jennifer Cooper moved to approve the commendations and recommendations of the draft annual report. Ms. Catherine King seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

Ms. Alison MacArthur moved to approve the whole report for submission to the Board of Education. Ms. Frederique Vincent seconded. It was approved unanimously.

Dr. Suzanne Creasey will assume responsibility for editing the report and submitting it in compliance with the agency process to get the report submitted to the Board of Education and on the agenda for the Board's September meeting. Mr. Darren Minarik and Ms. Alison MacArthur, chair and vice chair, will plan to present the report to the Board of Education.

### **Goals for Subcommittees**

Each subcommittee also discussed goals for the upcoming year. The following goals were identified as a focus for each subcommittee.

### **Outcomes Subcommittee**

To gather information and provide feedback on data from the Statewide systemic improvement plan (Phase 2).

### **Policy and Regulation**

To gather information and provide feedback to the VDOE on the proposed restraint and seclusion regulations.

### **Achievement Subcommittee:**

To gather information and provide feedback to the VDOE on suspension, other disciplinary actions, and other absences and how it affects achievement.

### **Public Comment Review**

The committee discussed the public comments and letters will be sent to the commenters thanking them for their public comments.

### **Suggested Agenda Topics for Upcoming Meetings**

The topics requested to be addressed for future meetings are as follows:

- Facilitated discussion and the opportunity to make recommendations on restraint and seclusion regulations – Pat Haymes – October
- Statewide IEP – October
- Tiered system of supports with resources focused on behavior such as Project EASE (Educational Alternatives to Suspension and Expulsion) – Jo Ann Burkholder - December
- School Improvement Process – history and how it works to identify issues and resolve problems – Samantha Hollins – December
- Applied Studies Diploma & Credit Accommodations – April
- Services available to SOL track students who have a hard time securing employment or post school opportunities - April
- Update on Homebound/Home-based Instruction when it is revised

Ms. Alison MacArthur made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Christy Evanko seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Planned dates for meetings include:

- October 1-2, 2015
- December 3-4, 2015
- April 7-8, 2016
- July 28-29, 2016
- September 22-23, 2016
- December 1-2, 2016