

Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Minutes: March 2, 2023

Meeting Date and Time: 3/2/2023 6:00 pm

In person meeting referencing Mandate dated July 1, 2022-Norfolk Public School Board Meeting Room 1202 Central Administration Building 800 East City Hall Ave Norfolk, VA 23510

Members Present	Dr. Nicole Anthony, (Chair), Christopher Keyes, Melissa Garman, Vicky Manugo Greco, Diane Outlaw, Shantae Brown, Sarah Bailey, Nikia Bassett, Mildred Goolsby, Renee Howard, Nathan Whitlow (Co-Chair)
Members Absent	Katelyn Conway, Marysol Flores, Michael Hester, Gilda Northern, Aniki Reid, ., Rita Bell, Matthew Moynihan
NPS Consultant	Dr. Glenda Walter (Senior Director) (excused)
Guests	Elise Petersen-McMath, Carl Poole, III NPS Parent Advocacy-New Virginia Majority Group, Tiona White

The meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) was held March 2, 2023, 6:10 pm at Granby High School. Dr. Nicole Anthony, presiding.

Welcome/Introduction/The Purpose of SEAC: Dr. Anthony welcomed members and guests. SEAC members and guests introduced themselves.

Meeting's agenda was presented and there was motion to allocate time for sub-committees to meet in lieu of Learning Support Updates-motion carried.

Dr. Anthony read the purpose of the SEAC.

Review/Adoption of January and February SEAC Minutes: Minutes from both meetings were shared. Editorial corrections and spelling errors were noted. The minutes were motioned and seconded; the motion was carried.

Announcements: Ms. Bailey, Endependence Center, will host the Youth on Saturday, 3/18/2023 from 1-3 pm.

Ms. Bailey's role has increased at the Endependence Center. The recommendation from the Director was to step down from Membership of the Subcommittee but will remain as a member of SEAC.

General meeting-April 1, 2023, 1:30.

Mrs. Greco- Autism Society of Tidewater plans for a 5k walk/run at the Great Dismal Swamp.

The celebration theme will be Superheroes versus Village; the Autism Society of Tidewater is looking for sponsors. They will share updates with SEAC, and we will publicize at the Senior Conference, Pre-K meetings, Public Comments, Learning Support and at our meetings.

Norfolk Environmental Commission/Services revisited/updated Coal Ash at Lamberts Point. It affects the community and housing in that area. People new to the area have concerns about the high incidents of violence in this area.

Nomination Committee (SEAC) to meet before the end of the month to consider applications; the date is TBA. Applicants are invited to SEAC meetings. A total of twenty-six (26) applications were received.

Dr. Whitlow will provide email addresses to invite applicants to the March 29 and/or April meeting(s). Interested people may attend.

Ms. Greco- In the past, SEAC has sent an invitation to applicants to attend meetings, via email; The is recommended in the SEAC By Laws. Applicants are recommended to attend at least three (3) SEAC meetings as guests.

Post meeting agenda- Remind others that may attend any meeting; we can facilitate further interest, reach out to staff, parents and/or guardians.

Elise Petersen- McMath, Carl Poole, III NPS Parent Advocacy-New Virginia Majority Group, Serving students who reside in Calvert Square/Young Terrace, Jacox, P. B. Young, Sr., Tidewater Park provide some safety measures such as they depart busses to walk home.

Ms. Greco— noted the Norfolk Council PTAs planning stages for local meeting-leadership transition this school year. The Norfolk Council of PTA (NCPTA) is planning a local meeting, but the date is not available. It is still in development. They need more parents involved in advocacy.

Dr. Anthony- will not be in attendance for April or May-family in relocation status- Regretfully she will not complete term of office.

Ongoing Business: March 15-NPS School Board-make comments-Voice formal references budget

Ms. Bailey needs information to provide input-DATA??? Outcome??? (Such as Staffing shortage, Class size, Transportation, note incentives—CDL-cash incentives, Professional development opportunities for paraprofessional, Certificate for skill workers, Technology assistance, Qualified -Long Term substitutes, increase pay-bonus-step increase for those who are returning to-RETENTION!!!

Ms. Garman notes her personal experience as a retired Navy -leadership.

NPS competes with private businesses in benefits, pay and promotions -example: working for Home Depot, the pay is per hour.

Mental health issues among staff-significant increase in absenteeism-STUDENTS learning lost no catch up.

Ms. Greco noted she has written letters of support on behalf of SEAC for DOE Grants -to fund additional resources Sensory Hallways and the Parent resource Center.

Significant Incentives

Mrs. Goolsby—Teacher Mentors at universities, Community Outreach/engagement, PEATC workshops.

Pay for instruction assistance-value personnel-INVEST!!!

Ms. Greco, Goolsby, and Garman: There has been a change of culture in this division, late information, and confirmation especially for employment. (Hint- Employees accept employment from other districts.)

NPS Human Resources

The department is not providing information in a timely manner. Information is needed for practice and/procedures.

Ms. Petersen-McBath, guest, shared her experience from Chesterfield County as an ELL instructor. There is a need for the voice of teachers and parents to advocate change, to get more apps on the computers and get more for learning support in the teaching and learning process. After these changes, they saw improvement in instruction, class management, and student learning.

Public Comments: None

Learning Support Update: Deferred

New Business/ Wrap up/ Adjournment.

Dr. Whitlow stated that on February 28, 2023, there was a three-hour delay in bus transportation for his pre-school child who is autistic and non-verbal. He would like the support of the SEAC to make a public comment at the March 15, 2023, NPS School Board Meeting- Public Comments. His concerns will be addressing the budget, improving administrative procedures for notifying parents, hiring instructional assistants and more drivers and aides on the bus. They should look at the minimum wage as compared to private businesses. Also, we need to implement communication to relieve parental anxiety when the students are in school.

Dr. Anthony encouraged others to sign up to speak at the NPS School Board meeting. Veteran teachers need better care with their pay stages.

Reminder- Dr. Walter will present Learning Support's Annual Plan on March 29, 2023, at 6:00 pm. She will reference staffing (positions of full-time teacher, teacher Specialist, full time secretaries, paraprofessionals, CCEIS specialists, CCEIS social workers, CCEIS student invention counselors), and IDEA provisions as stated by the VA DOE. Also, the special education in the local and regional jails will be addressed in reference to black and brown students. Central qualifications are needed for the Learning Support team. Another emphasis will be on the Flow-through Funds-Part B, Section 611. The time frame is July 1, 2023, to September 30, 2023.

The motion to adjourn this meeting was 7:28 and Sub-Committees were to meet for the remaining time.

The next regular meeting of SEAC will be April 6, 2023.