

**Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)
Norfolk Public Schools - Minutes 5/6/21: Adopted 6/3/21**

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and Governor Northam’s Executive Order Number 53 (2020), effective March 23, 2020, this meeting was held via Zoom Communications, in accordance with Code of Virginia §2.2-3708.2.

Meeting, date and time: via Zoom, 5/6/21, 6:00 p.m.

Members present:	Halima Akar, Theresa Apker, Sarah Bailey, Rita Bell, Charlene Christopher, Mildred Goolsby, Vicky Greco (Secretary), Matthew Moynihan (Chair), Diane Outlaw, Tasha Washington, Vashti Washington (Vice Chair)
Members absent:	Nate Almeida, Betty Boone, Seraphine Nyuydine, Susan Williams
NPS Consultants present:	Jerri Smith, Learning Support Senior Coordinator; Dr. Glenda Walter, Learning Support Senior Director
Guests: * Indicates guest’s participation by Zoom but full name was not provided	Dr. Nicole Anthony, Fayetteville State University; Anne Boone, Southside Coalition Education Committee; Coach *Coulson; Barrett Hicks, Tidewater Connections/Tidewater Concerned Citizens Association; Leilani Morgan, Special Education Advocates/RTP; Calvin Simmons; Joann_* ; Sarah Peoples Perry

Welcome/Introductions/The Purpose of SEAC: Mr. Moynihan called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and invited guests to introduce themselves. Members responded to the concerns raised regarding the need for up-to-date SEAC organizational information, such as the adopted minutes from the current school year and bylaws, to be posted on the NPS website. Discussion also included suggestions for improved communications and outreach (online, offline, in-print, and in-person) to parents and stakeholders regarding SEAC, the schedule of meetings, the public comment process at SEAC meetings, as well as processes by the Committee and Learning Support/Special Education to address issues raised as part of public comments and parent/community input received by the Committee. Mr. Moynihan and Mr. Washington clarified financial, logistic, and privacy constraints to implementing some of the suggestions which were offered and noted by the Committee tonight.

Approval of April Minutes: Ms. Greco presented draft minutes from the April 1, 2021 meeting. The Committee adopted the minutes as written.

Announcements/Business for Remainder of School Year: At the next meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 3, the election of 2021-22 Officers will take place virtually, as provided for in the bylaws. Please refer below to the proposed slate of officer candidates who were nominated at tonight's meeting.

The Annual Report is due to the School Board by Tuesday, June 15. Mr. Moynihan explained that the report details the continuing work this year by SEAC to identify concerns, priorities, and recommendations in evaluating the division's efforts to meet the needs of our students with disabilities. He will send an email to members following tonight's meeting to begin brainstorming on the initial draft. Ms. Bailey and Mr. Moynihan helped address the question raised about incorporating parent, stakeholder and community input on issues brought to SEAC via public comments and emails. Development of the Annual Report will be discussed at the June 3 meeting.

In addition, plans were discussed for a brief presentation at the next meeting by NPS Instructional Technology Specialist Terese Toth on the use of Microsoft Teams for SEAC purposes.

Public Comment: After explaining guidelines for public comment at SEAC meetings, Mr. Moynihan opened the floor for public comment. Ms. Christopher discussed information that she, Ms. Akar, and Dr. Walter received during their recent participation in a live, online SEAC training session conducted by the Parent Education and Advocacy Training Center (PEATC) in partnership with the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). She noted that additional online training sessions are currently open for registration and highly recommended the training to SEAC members. Dr. Walter emphasized the value of participating in the statewide training, which focused on the role of SEAC and provided opportunities to learn additional strategies to build more effective and efficient advisory committees. Dr. Walter had

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forwarded registration info for the upcoming online training sessions to SEAC members in her March 3, 2021 email with the subject line: "New SEAC Training for LEAs" and also posted the link in the Zoom Chat forum of tonight's meeting.

Nomination of 2021-2022 Officers: Ms. Greco gave the Nominating report and nominations were made for the slate of officers for the upcoming school year. Nominations from the floor, with the consent of nominees, will also be taken during the election of officers on June 3, 2021. The proposed slate is as follows:

- Co-Chair Candidates: Mr. Vashti Washington and Ms. Theresa Apker
- Co-Vice Chair Candidates: Mr. Christopher Keyes and Ms. Vicky Greco
- Co-Secretary Candidates: Ms. Halima Akar and Ms. Rita Bell

Learning Support Presentation: Dr. Walter encouraged the continued collaborative feedback from stakeholders regarding the division's efforts to identify and meet the educational needs of our students with disabilities.

Dr. Walter reported that Ms. Gertrude Meeks is the new Parent Tech for the NPS Parent Resource Center (PRC), which is currently located in Room 305 of the Rosemont Center. She asked for suggestions of more accessible locations for possible consideration in relocating the PRC, such as a public library or community center.

Dr. Walter noted that 2 confidential applications for SEAC membership have been forwarded by the School Board to the Committee to determine the recommendation status for each applicant. Following discussion of the need to move into closed session, guests/non-members were placed in the Zoom virtual "waiting room" for the duration of the closed portion of the meeting.

The closed session began at 7:21 p.m. Dr. Walter presented the 2 applications for consideration, which were then discussed by the SEAC members present. Following deliberation, the Committee decisions were recorded and the closed session ended at 7:35 p.m. Meeting guests were permitted to rejoin the virtual meeting and the Committee resumed its Order of Business.

In answer to Mr. Washington's question regarding SOL testing waivers for students with disabilities, Dr. Walter explained that NPS is not providing waivers for this spring's SOL testing in light of the suspension of SOL testing for the previous year due to the onset of the pandemic. She noted that while parents of students in grades 3 through 8 may choose to complete the opt-out process for upcoming testing at the school-building level, SOL testing provides the verified credits needed for high school students to meet graduation requirements. SOL testing applies to all students, including students with disabilities, except where the parent opts out and/or the IEP has made decisions regarding alternative testing such as the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP) which is still considered an SOL test. Testing coordinators at the building-level and the NPS Testing Coordinator Kristen McGarrity are available to answer questions regarding test waivers.

Ms. Christopher raised the importance of SEAC and NPS in encouraging parents to engage and provide public comment to the VDOE, which is currently seeking stakeholder input on "Guidelines for the Consideration for the Need for Age and Developmentally Appropriate Instruction," the proposed guidance document based on 2020 legislation. These proposed guidelines are to ensure that IEP teams consider, plan for and implement age-appropriate and developmentally appropriate instruction related to sexual health, self-restraint, self-protection, respect for personal privacy, and personal boundaries of others, under the oversight of the School Board. Ms. Christopher will forward related info to Dr. Walter.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m. The next meeting is Thursday, June 3, 2021 at 6 p.m. via Zoom conferencing.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicky Manugo Greco, Recording Secretary