

Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)
Norfolk Public Schools - Minutes 6/3/21 - Adopted 9/2/21

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, 6/3/21, 6:00 p.m.

Members present:	Halima Akar, Theresa Apker, Sarah Bailey, Rita Bell, Charlene Christopher, Mildred Goolsby, Vicky Greco (Secretary), Christopher Keyes, Matthew Moynihan (Chair), Diane Outlaw, Susan Williams
Members absent:	Nate Almeida, Betty Boone, Seraphine Nyuydine, Tasha Washington, Vashti Washington (Vice Chair)
NPS Consultants present:	Jerri Smith, Learning Support Senior Coordinator; Terese Toth, District Instructional Technology Specialist; Dr. Glenda Walter, Learning Support Senior Director
Guests:	Dr. Nicole Anthony, Fayetteville State University; Kimberly Pierce; Jessica Smart

Welcome/Introductions/The Purpose of SEAC: Prior to the start of the meeting, Mr. Moynihan noted technical issues he was experiencing and that he would be able to participate by phone. Per his request, Ms. Greco served as Chair Pro-Tempore and led the meeting. She called the last meeting of the 2020-2021 school year to order at 6:02 p.m. Dr. Walter admitted guests from the Zoom virtual "waiting room" and invited guests to introduce themselves. On behalf of the SEAC, Ms. Greco welcomed the guest attendees.

Adoption of April Minutes: Ms. Greco presented draft minutes from the May 6, 2021 meeting. The Committee adopted the minutes as amended.

Announcements: Ms. Greco announced the upcoming live, online SEAC training sessions offered by the Parent Education and Advocacy Training Center (PEATC) in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) on Saturday, July 17 and August 14. The following SEAC members had previously completed the governance training in May and encouraged others to register for one of the upcoming sessions: Dr. Walter, Ms. Christopher, Ms. Akar, Ms. Bell, Ms. Apker, and Ms. Goolsby.

Public Comment: After giving the guidelines for public comment at SEAC meetings, Ms. Greco opened the floor for public comment. Mr. Moynihan offered public comments commending Learning Support personnel and Special Education staff at Crossroads Elementary for addressing the mobility and assistive communication needs of his son. He expressed deep appreciation for his son's exemplary pre-K special educators at Easton Early Childhood Center and most recently at Crossroads, including Ms. Guerrell and her special education team.

Ms. Greco also extended thanks to all NPS teachers and staff who work daily with our students with disabilities.

2020-2021 Annual Report to the School Board: Ms. Greco led discussion regarding the development of the Annual Report to the School Board, which has requested its citizen advisory committees submit by Tuesday, June 15. She recommended that the annual report include the calendar of 2021-22 meetings in order to apprise the School Board of and invite them to SEAC meeting dates in the coming year, in addition to including highlights of SEAC discussions regarding outcomes of students with disabilities.

Immediately following the previous May 6, 2021 SEAC meeting, Mr. Moynihan had requested additional written input for this year's report from committee members in his May 7, 2021 email, in which he distributed the May 6, 2020 report as an example of the type of concerns, priorities, and recommendations that had been communicated to the School Board, as part of the SEAC's regular evaluation of the division's efforts to meet the needs of our students with disabilities. He reported plans to distribute this year's draft report for SEAC review once he has received other members' feedback on the report's scope and content. Ms. Bailey noted that she had not received Mr. Moynihan's email and some members present discussed other difficulties in email transmission over the last several weeks with the new SEAC email account: SEAC_NPS@nps.k12.va.us. Dr. Walter sent a test email to members present at the meeting to begin to determine the

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potential reasons for the technical issues. Additional troubleshooting occurred at the end of the meeting with the assistance of NPS Instructional Technology Specialist Terese Toth, who conducted a mini-tutorial session for Committee members on the use of Microsoft Outlook applications for SEAC purposes.

Election of 2021-2022 Officers: Ms. Greco and Mr. Moynihan conducted the election of new SEAC Officers, whose 1-year terms begin July 1, 2021. The following members were elected to serve for the upcoming school year:

- 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

The new officers will follow-up with Dr. Walter to schedule governance/planning sessions for 2021-2022 over the summer. The Committee determined that SEAC will continue to meet virtually the first Thursday of each month at 6 pm for the coming school year, until further notice/additional guidance is provided by Dr. Byrdsong and the School Board.

Learning Support Update: Dr. Walter reported the following:

- a) Content is currently being uploaded to the **new NPS SEAC webpage**, including SEAC governance documents such as meeting agendas and minutes, annual reports to the School Board, and organizational info, including bylaws. Once the final revisions are made to the SEAC webpage, Dr. Walter will email the SEAC when the webpage goes "live" and members can help share the webpage with the public in order to inform our stakeholders about the work of the SEAC.
- b) **NPS Parent Resource Center (PRC) Technician** job is open for application. The division is currently seeking qualified applicants for this position in order to support the activities of the PRC, in addition to assisting in its expansion. SEAC members can assist in encouraging potential candidates to apply online at <https://norfolkpsd.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=1265#>.
- c) VDOE is seeking stakeholder input regarding Federal Performance Indicator 8 Family Engagement through December 2021. The **VDOE 2020-2021 Indicator 8 Parent Survey** is now open and accessible online in English and Spanish. VDOE will send the division paper copies of the survey to share with families that may not have online access. Learning Support plans to promote completion of the survey as part of "back to school" outreach and communications efforts to parents and guardians. Dr. Walter noted that these efforts are part of ongoing strategies by Learning Support to encourage feedback from parents and stakeholders regarding issues in meeting the needs of the approximately 4,400 students with disabilities. She reported that the division's students with disabilities account for about 11% of the total school population for NPS at this time.
- d) VDOE has developed guidance (Reference: State Superintendent's Memo #124-21) for local school divisions in response to language provided in the 2021 Appropriation Act, which approves **one-year high school extensions for certain students with disabilities** who would have otherwise aged out of eligibility for special education services during the 2020-2021 school year due to reaching the age of 21 (inclusive). VDOE has also published and made public the **FY19 Special Education Performance Reports** for the state and local divisions, including Norfolk. The link for annual performance reports for NPS dating back to 2016-2017 and all other school divisions in the state is: https://www.doe.virginia.gov/special_ed/reports_plans_stats/index.shtml.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. The full SEAC will hold its first meeting for the upcoming school year on Thursday, September 2, 2021. The meeting format will follow guidance from school administration and the School Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicky Manugo Greco
2020-21 Recording Secretary