

**Fairfax County Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities (ACSD)  
Meeting Minutes  
December 11, 2019**

<b>Member Name</b>		<b>Organization</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Darcy	Acquavella	City of Fairfax School Board	P
Laura	Allen	Region 5	P
Joe	Alston	Member at Large (Moon)	
Ally	Baldassari	SEPTA	P
Michael	Beattie	Disability Services Board	P
Cheri	Belkowitz *	Springfield District	P
Liz	Brocato	Braddock District	P
Brandon	Cassady	Hunter Mill District	P
Sandi	Dallhoff ***	Department of Neighborhood & Community Services	P
Debbie	DeJacques	Region 3	
Susan	Edgerton	POAC - NOVA	P
Judy	Farabaugh	Member at Large (McElveen)	E
Mary Kate	Ganley	Student Representative	P
Meghan	Gray	Lee District	P
Mary	Hackman	Providence District	P
Harry	Henderson	Mason District	P
Lissy	John	Dranesville District	P
Lynn	Kiewel	Fairfax County Health Department	P
Toby	Latham	Assistive Technology Services	E
Erin	Lauer	Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board	P
Connie	Lorentzen **	Mount Vernon District	P
Rachel	Macias	Region 4	P
Linda	Mason	Higher Education	E
Melissa	Morrison	Region 1	P
Phara	Rodrigue	Member at Large (Keys-Gamarra)	P
Michael	Simon	Sully District	E
Joanne	Walton	Faculty Representative	P
Ann-Marie	Ward ***	Fairfax County Council of PTAs	P
Cathy	White	Transition Services	P
Jessica	White	Preschool	
Niki	Zimmerman	Region 2	P
Vacant		Federation of Citizens	
Vacant		League of Women Voters	
<b>* Chair **Vice-Chair *** Secretary</b>		<b>P = Present E = Excused Absence R = Resigned</b>	

**FCPS Staff Who Were Present:**

- Teresa Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Special Services
- Mike Bloom, Director of the Office of Special Education Instruction
- Dawn Clements, Assistant Ombudsman for Special Education
- Jane Strong, Director of the Office of Procedural Support
- Mary Beth Harrison-Cunningham, Director of the Parent Resource Center

**School Board Liaison Present:** none

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**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Cheri Belkowitz

**Agenda & Minutes:**

- Joanne motioned to approve the November minutes as presented. Michael seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Connie introduced the agenda for the meeting. Joanne moved to approve the agenda as presented. Susan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment**

- Callie Oetinger discussed her difficulties with student evaluation procedures, FERPA requests, confidentiality and student privacy, difficulty communicating with central office staff, and state complaints that have been submitted. She mentioned students whose children receive ATS were being charged for their devices via FCPS and her frustration with how the central office does not consider the impacts of new policy on special education students.
- Amanda Campbell spoke about concerns with staff response to the ACSD report. The ACSD brochure needs to be translated and consistently given out at IEP meetings. She is concerned about the disaggregation of data of SOL scores vs. VAAP data and what that means for the special education success rate. With respect to restraint and seclusion regulations, FCPS shouldn't wait for Virginia to create its own more specific policies.
- Sarah Taylor spoke about her elementary school child with autism. She has concerns about transparency and information about services available in FCPS. Base school placement was in crisis, but there was no information given by the school about other placements. There is no one guidebook or website that lists the potential resources and services available, for parents, teachers, and administrators.
- Cheri Belkowitz spoke about the American Association of Caregiving Youth. 8-18 year olds are often caregivers for relatives with disabilities / elderly / illness leading to anxiety and depression. FCPS should add a question to youth survey to identify youths who need help.
- Eileen Ellis spoke about children who have medical diagnoses and 504 plans. Parents should have more information about the 504 / IEP process for families who don't know about them. Training is needed for staff for consistency across staff and schools. Families shouldn't have to hire an advocate. She believes there need to be more supports for staff to be proactive and following IEPs.

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**Parent Resource Center News:**

- Mary Beth Harrison-Cunningham, Director of the PRC, reminded attendees about the PRC YouTube channel, which has more than 40 videos of previous workshops that have been recorded. There is an upcoming workshop on Twice Exceptional students. This year, there has been an average of 1200 check-outs of library resources each month (almost double) as well as 250-300 calls/consultations per month. The PRC will be closed over winter break. In January, the Mind in the Making series will run for 8 weeks.

**Presentation:**

- IDEA Annual Plan Timeline Updates
  - FCPS is required to submit an annual plan to VDOE
  - VDOE provides an application with requirements in December 2019
  - Draft of 2020-21 IDEA grant application and report on implementation
    - Required VDOE components
    - Report on implementation of 2018-2019 plan, with prior year data
    - Application for federal funds
  - Draft will be reviewed by ACSD on March 11, 2020
  - Draft will be reviewed by School Board on April 2, 2020
  - Final plan submitted to School Board on April 23, 2020
  - Plan submitted to VDOE in May 2020

**Special Education Update:**

- Mike Bloom:
  - Special Education Conference – April 18 at Hayfield SS. Online Registration will be in February. There was a call for proposals in November. There are generally 50-60 presentations, both in-house and outside presenters. The Keynote speaker is Dr. Mary Brenel, professor at the University of Florida, CEEDER center, about High Leverage Practices for Inclusive Classrooms – collaboration, assessment, social-emotional-behavioral, instruction. There will be a request for conference volunteers after Winter Break
  - Inclusive Schools Week Recap: Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools: Lane ES, Woodley Hills ES, Poe MS, Woodson HS. They have Special Olympics Unified Sports, leadership, and whole school engagement.
- Jane Strong:
  - Revised Special Education Handbook will go online soon, with hard copies to each school and PRC. Translations department will also work on translating into most common languages

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**New Business:**

- Cheri recapped the FCPS December 3 Town Hall Meeting about Inclusiveness, One Fairfax, Equity & Cultural Responsiveness.
- Cheri is finishing her 2nd year as Chair and previously served 2 years as Vice Chair – anyone interested in being the chair, please ask Cheri for more information.
- Email Address update – ACSD needs a way to communicate with the community to determine unmet needs.
  - What do we do about the previous meeting’s motion about having an email address given to each ACSD member?
  - Sometimes committee members need an fcps.edu account to access collaborative documents – FCPS needs to work with individuals as that occurs.
  - Ann-Marie moved to rescind the motion from the November 11 meeting requesting that FCPS provide all members of the ACSD with an email address. Connie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
  - There was discussion of the FCPS proposed agreement to access the email account.
  - Connie moved: “The ACSD directs the executive committee to sign the FCPS agreement as presented, with the changes below, in order to access the new ACSD email address. We authorize the chair to work with FCPS to provide access to the email account for the Executive Committee (Chair, Vice Chair, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary).” Sandi seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
  - Discussion about the language of the statement. Add “outside the scope of the ACSD” to the end of the first sentence in the second paragraph. Change webpage statement to be (1) or (2). Add statement about chair’s responsibilities to provide access.
- Once the email address is live, we will look at getting general business cards for members to hand out.

**Announcements:**

- Brandon – Disability Policy Summit, March 23-25

**Subcommittee Break-outs**

- Subcommittees met to discuss their work before adjournment of the meeting. All members are required to join at least one sub-committee:
  - Family Engagement & Outreach: Ann-Marie
  - School Board Charge: Susan
  - Policy & Regulation: Ally & Brandon
  - Student Achievement & Outcomes: Erin

**Meeting adjourned:** Cheri Belkowitz adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.