

**Fairfax County Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities (ACSD)
Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2020**

Member Name		Organization	Attendance
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	
Brandon	Cassady	Hunter Mill District	P
Sandi	Dallhoff ***	Department of Neighborhood & Community Services	P
Debbie	DeJacques	Region 3	R
Susan	Edgerton	POAC - NOVA	P
Judy	Farabaugh	Member at Large (McElveen)	R
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	E
Toby	Latham	Assistive Technology Services	P
Erin	Lauer	Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board	E
Connie	Lorentzen **	Mount Vernon District	P
Rachel	Macias	Region 4	P
Linda	Mason	Higher Education	P
Melissa	Morrison	Region 1	
Phara	Rodrigue	Member at Large (Keys-Gamarra)	P
Michael	Simon	Sully District	
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	
Vacant		Federation of Citizens	
Vacant		League of Women Voters	
* Chair **Vice-Chair *** Secretary		P = Present E = Excused Absence R = Resigned	

FCPS Staff Who Were Present:

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

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Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2020

School Board Members Present:

- Stella Pekarsky, At-Large, Committee Liaison
- Karen Keys-Gamarra, At-Large
- Rachna Sizemore Heizer, At-Large

This meeting was held virtually via Blackboard Collaborate Ultra and live-streamed on FCPS channel 99. The meeting was recorded. Public comment was submitted electronically.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Cheri Belkowitz

Agenda & Minutes:

- Connie presented the minutes. Joanne motioned to approve the May 13 minutes as presented. Ally seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Connie introduced the agenda for the meeting. Connie moved to amend the agenda to change the OSEI and Chair announcement sections. Joanne seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

- Daphne Huber, a parent of PAC student has concerns about COVID 19 and regression. No discussion at IEP meetings about possible regression and pandemic and making decisions about next school year. Not considering losses when making these decisions
- Sanda Heintz, a parent of PAC student has heard the same comments from other parents. Concerns about transition decisions being made without knowing what next year will look like, as well as retention concerns. Using old data and not acknowledging regression over the past 3 months, What about immunocompromised students in the future? Virtual environment services drastically reduced OT and speech, both for TLP and ESY. She also has concerns about childcare for staff, utilization of IAs.

Parent Resource Center News:

- **Mary Beth Harrison-Cunningham**, Director of the PRC, provided an update. PRC website and YouTube channel. Webinar advertised today – 335 people interested – 123 Magic – behavior intervention teachers. Mind in the Making storytimes, Tu/Th July 7-28, 10-10:30 am. Social workers self-care webinar for parents in July. Virtual webinars planned through next December. Hope to start a curbside library pick-up service when they are allowed to return to their Dunn Loring offices.

Fairfax County Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities (ACSD)
Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2020

Special Education Update:

- **Teresa Johnson** mentioned that the Governor and VDOE announced preliminary plans for re-opening of schools. FCPS Return to School Taskforce will look at the recommendations in the upcoming weeks. June 15 / 23 – worksessions on preliminary plans. New department – Department of School Improvement and School Supports – reorganization that moves some of the Special Services staff over – Student Testing, Activities office, MTSS, Nontraditional School programs. Teresa also announced she is retiring after 31 years in FCPS.
- **Mike Bloom** discussed planning for ESY. 2500 students have ESY services added to their IEPs, and addendum meetings will continue.

Annual Report:

- **Cheri** presented the Annual Report, which is scheduled to be presented to School Board in September. The committee reviewed each page of the report. We will include a section of the highlights of the PRC, particularly with the virtual component during the pandemic. We will add the number of public comments, including tonight's public comments. Consider video testimony as a possibility in the future post-pandemic. Should we add information about the pandemic? Should we meet in July? It would be returning members and new members. Are we able to make changes to the report after June? Family Engagement & Outreach subcommittee – no changes from previous report. Incoming chair will receive a list of dates/events that ACSD should consider having a presence at. Student Achievement and Outcomes – no changes. Policy and Regulation – concerns about negative language around behavior management/reward systems/ABA. Ally made corrections to the report that were not reflected in the final draft.
- **Joanne** moved to approve the Annual Report as amended during the discussion. Ally seconded. 16 in favor – 0 opposed – 1 abstention
- **Cheri** asked the committee members to consider ideas for the charge next year.

Return to School Task Force

- **Mary** reported that school staff are meeting daily and other task force members meet twice a week and provide feedback on suggested plans. There is planning for 3 scenarios with a focus on equity (special education, ELL), technology, distancing requirements, health and safety. Question if students will be disciplined for not following distancing, health, and safety requirements and how do we handle changes to different phases. Concerns about evaluation, assessments, IEP adherence, implementing special programs at home. There will be enhanced professional development for staff and parent training. Increasing synchronous, providing instructional materials/AT. Researching how things are going so far. Inconsistencies throughout. Achievement gaps anticipated. More and better communication needed. Option 1 – all virtual M-F: teacher/student workday, interventions; MS/HS 45

Fairfax County Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities (ACSD)
Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2020

minute periods, 3-6 3.5 hours, pre-K-2 2.5 hours daily, special education/ESL extra hour. Continuation of paper packets. What kind of surveying of parents. Option 2 – 25% capacity (4 groups once a week) or 50% capacity (2 groups twice a week). One day a week could be better than none. Option 3 – some students and staff can't return due to health reasons, will be home no matter what – considering Virtual Virginia instead of current virtual planning – core subjects vs. electives – content delivery/technology – by July 10, parents will be choosing their option. School board has not heard the final plans and the plans might be changing in lieu of VDOE reporting. Parent surveys are supposed to go out this month. State workgroup is still formulating recommendations and guidance which will go out to the school divisions over the summer. Questions about virtual use of special education materials. Question about ESY – virtual instruction Monday through Thursday, teacher individual consultation time with parents on Friday.

Chair Update:

- **Cheri** mentioned the I'm Determined Summit is virtual this year and anyone can attend.
- Transition Symposium for all students in August before school begins in earnest.
- Cheri will not be returning to the committee next year.

OSEI Commendation:

- **Ally** presented a motion commending the Office of Special Education Instruction. Joanne seconded. 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions

Nominating Committee/Elections:

- **Meghan** presented the slate
 - Chair: Connie Lorentzen
 - Vice Chair: Michael Beattie
 - Recording Secretary: Ann-Marie Ward
 - Corresponding Secretary: Ally Baldassari

The slate was approved 18 in favor, 1 absention

New Business:

- Connie would like to provide input to the hiring of the Assistant Superintendent on behalf of the committee. She will happily accept suggestions for desired characteristics from the committee via email connie.lorentzen@gmail.com

Fairfax County Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities (ACSD)
Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2020

Announcements:

- Therapeutic Recreation wants to know how to support families this summer during virtual programming
- If you want to be reappointed to ACSD, please let your leadership know to reappoint you. The school board will be approving the appointments this month. Mike Bloom's office will follow up with returning members. Mike will work with Connie to determine which open seats there are.
- Connie motioned to have a summer meeting on Wednesday, August 12. Joanne seconded. 13 yea. Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned: Connie adjourned the meeting at 7:38 pm.