

**Fairfax County Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities (ACSD)  
DRAFT Meeting Minutes  
March 11, 2020**

<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	E
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	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	
Harry	Henderson	Mason District	
Lissy	John	Dranesville District	P
Lynn	Kiewel	Fairfax County Health Department	P
Toby	Latham	Assistive Technology Services	P
Erin	Lauer	Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board	P
Connie	Lorentzen **	Mount Vernon District	P
Rachel	Macias	Region 4	P
Linda	Mason	Higher Education	
Melissa	Morrison	Region 1	
Phara	Rodrigue	Member at Large (Keys-Gamarra)	P
Michael	Simon	Sully District	P
Joanne	Walton	Faculty Representative	E
Ann-Marie	Ward ***	Fairfax County Council of PTAs	P
Cathy	White	Transition Services	
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:**

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

**School Board Liaison Present:** Stella Pekarsky, Sully District

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

**Agenda & Minutes:**

- Connie presented the minutes. Sandi motioned to approve the February minutes as presented. Brandon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Connie introduced the agenda for the meeting. Brandon motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Meghan seconded. The motion passed unanimously

**Public Comment**

- William Johnson, an elementary school student, spoke about taking away recess as a punishment. He doesn't think it's an effective punishment. Kids need a time to use their energy or they will use it during class. Taking away recess doesn't resolve the problem; it just addresses a symptom.
- Tom Gillespie spoke about children with hidden disabilities. His child is twice exceptional. They home schooled him for 3 years. When he went back to FCPS, he started with a 504 plan and then an IEP. They were happy with the written IEP but are having trouble getting it implemented correctly. They were told by the special education staff that they are under no obligation to support an advanced diploma.

**Parent Resource Center News:**

- Mary Beth Harrison-Cunningham, Director of the PRC, provided an update. Positive Discipline workshop in April, already full. Pens to give out at Special Education conference. Registration is now open! PRC website has a new page of resources, by topic. The PRC supports all families, not just special education families.

**Presentations:**

- **Lea Skurpski and Jackie Prentice presented the IDEA Annual Plan Review.** Required by law, demonstrates eligibility for federal funding, submitted to VDOE, outlines planned use of IDEA Part B grant funding from the federal government via the state of Virginia. The IDEA annual plan is governed by the Code of Virginia – ensures rights and protections are given to children with disabilities, including children in private schools. Must be reviewed by

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the SEAC and approved by the FCPS school board.

- FY21 proposed special education budget is \$601.6 million (\$37 million via IDEA grant funding). Plan is for the IDEA grant funding. Section 611 – K through 12, Section 619 – preschool. \$36.2 million for K-12, \$.8 million for preschool. FCPS Can only spend on the agreed upon items in the plan.
- Required Components – Superintendent’s Certification, Policy Statements, Statement of Assurances, Special Education in Local and Regional Jails, Report on the Implementation of the Prior Year’s Plan (FY19), Maintenance of Effort Eligibility (state and local contributions toward special education must equal or exceed prior year funding), Coordinated Early Intervening Services (for students who need Tier 2 or Tier 3 interventions prior to being identified for special education: behavior, restorative justice, psychology, social work) and Proportionate Set-aside (parentally placed private school – OT, PT, speech), Application for use of federal funds for sections 611 and 619 (most goes to salary and benefits for teachers).
- **Renee LaHuffman-Jackson, Coordinator, Family and School Partnerships** reviewed the draft of the FCPS Family Engagement Policy. She asked for comments about the language to make sure the policy represents the beliefs of all stakeholders. Suggestions were made for how to make some of the language more inclusive of students and parents with disabilities.

Email: rlahuffmanja@fcps.edu

- Connie made a motion that the ACSD commend the school board for drafting a Family Engagement Policy. Susan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Nina Thomas, Coordinator, Professional Learning and Cultural Responsiveness** presented about Equity and Cultural Responsiveness. March is Equity in Education Month. Integrating welcoming environment, caring culture, transforming disciplinary practices to include second chances and restorative justice. Equity staff leads in every school and office. Next year will have student equity leads in secondary schools. Systemwide professional development on equity and cultural responsiveness beginning in 2019. Learning about decision making and discipline. Data was shared about disproportionality. Culture is about groupness: shared history, values, patterns of behaviors. Experiences make a familiar culture. Asset vs. deficit thinking. Reframing conversations. One specialist per region. Bias. Privilege. Power. How do we partner with parents?

Email: jathomas1@fcps.edu

**Special Education Update (Mike Bloom):**

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- COVID-19 update – planning is underway for distance learning – special education is being considered – timely communication will go out to all parents, including parents of students with disabilities.
- Health Department guidance will determine whether events are cancelled, such as the Special Education conference
- First class awards nominations are open – online form
- Dr. Ross Greene behaviorist will come to meet with CSS administrators and central office staff about collaborative and proactive solutions approach. Hope to expand training to 2020-21 school year.

**New Business:**

- Email address update: [acsdchair@fcps.edu](mailto:acsdchair@fcps.edu) – Cheri is not getting emails at the address but Mike is getting them

**Announcements:**

- Therapeutic Recreation – Registration for summer camps opens on April 1.
- POAC NOVA – meeting Saturday – Flexible Futures
- March 31 – FCCPTA advocacy night
- Welcoming Inclusion Network – March 16
- SEPTA awards – due March 13

**Meeting adjourned:** Cheri Belkowitz adjourned the meeting at 9:27 p.m.