

**Fairfax County Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities (ACSD)  
DRAFT Meeting Minutes  
June 9, 2021**

Member Name		Organization	Attendance
Darcy	Acquavella	City of Fairfax School Board	P
Ally	Baldassari ***	SEPTA	P
Sanaa	Bouzit	Member at Large-Abrar Omeish	P
Liz	Brocato	Braddock District-Megan McLaughlin	P
Brandon	Cassady	Hunter Mill District-Melanie Meren	E
Sandi	Dalhoff	Neighborhood & Community Services	P
Susan	Edgerton	Member at Large-Rachna Sizemore-Heizer	P
Mary Kate	Ganley	Student Representative	P
James	Gillespie	Fairfax/Falls Church Community Services Board	P
Meghan	Gray	Lee District-Tamara Derenak Kaufa	P
Mary	Hackman	Providence District-Karl Frisch	P
Harry	Henderson	Mason District-Ricardy Anderson	P
Lissy	John	Dranesville District-Elaine Tholen	E
Lynn	Kiewel	Fairfax Co. Health Dept.	E
Andrienne	Konstas	League of Women Voters	P
Toby	Latham	Springfield District-Laura Jane Cohen	P
Connie	Lorentzen *	Mount Vernon District-Karen Corbett Sanders	P
Rachel	Macias	Region 4- -Jay Pearson-Assistant Superintendent	P
Linda	Mason	Higher Education	P
Phara	Rodrigue	Member at Large-Karen Keys Gamarra	P
Brianne	Russell-Morris	POAC-NoVA	P
Michael	Simon	Sully District-Stella Pekarsky	P
Dena	Sonneborn	Region 3-Nardos King-Assistant Superintendent	P
Joanne	Walton**	Faculty	P
Ann-Marie	Ward ***	Fairfax County Council PTA	P
Niki	Zimmerman	Region 2-Fabio Zuluaga-Assistant Superintendent	
* Chair **Vice-Chair *** Secretary			P = Present E = Excused Absence R = Resigned

**FCPS Staff Who Were Present:**

- Mike Bloom, Director of Special Education Instruction
- Jane Strong, Director of Procedural Support
- Dawn Clements, Assistant Ombudsman for Special Education
- Dawn Schaefer, Coordinator Due Process and Eligibility

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

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**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Connie Lorentzen.

**Agenda & Minutes:**

- Ann-Marie presented the minutes from the May 2021 meeting. Dena made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Susan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Ann-Marie introduced the agenda for the meeting. Mike amended the agenda to note the absences of Mary Beth Harrison-Cunningham and Michelle Boyd. Dena made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. Ally seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment:**

- There was no public comment submitted.

**Attendance Report:**

- There are 26 appointed members who serve on the ACSD. A quorum is established with 14 members present. There were 22 members present at tonight's meeting. FCPS staff in attendance included Mike Bloom, Director of Special Education Instruction, Dawn Clements, Assistant Ombudsman for Special Education, and Jane Strong, Director of Procedural Support. The school board liaison to the ACSD, Rachna Sizemore Heizer, had a schedule conflict and was unable to be present.

**Parent Resource Center News**

- Mike Bloom shared an update about the Parent Resource Center on behalf of Mary Beth Harrison-Cunningham. PRC staff will be returning to Dunn Loring Center full time on July 1. The PRC will be open for library materials and consultations, by appointment. Some walk-ins may be accepted as space allows. Summer Survival Week for Families and Caregivers: Electronic Resources – week of June 14. Each day, participants will receive a link to a lesson guide and video tutorial. Sign up on the PRC website.

**Presentation: One-year High School Extensions for Certain Students with Disabilities**

- Dawn Schaefer, Coordinator for Due Process and Eligibility, presented about the Special Education Post-Secondary Advancement Plan (PSAP) based on guidelines from VDOE. This is for students who turned 22 this school year, who are pursuing an Applied Studies Diploma, to receive one more year of services not received due to COVID (not an IEP or ISP, not a proposal for FAPE). The plan contains a summary of performance, services and supports, setting most suitable for the student, and who will be responsible to provide the services and supports. FCPS will approach qualifying students and their families, and it will be their choice whether to accept the plan. Details available at <https://www.fcps.edu/node/43568>

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**Special Education Update:**

- Mike Bloom shared the FCPS Equity Profile website <https://www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/one-fairfax/equity-profile> - Committee members shared that they hope that all equity efforts consider people with disabilities. Committee members would like to see data further disaggregated for students with disabilities, particularly for twice exceptional students.
- Mike also mentioned that Dr. Ross Greene visited FCPS on June 4. He visited 4 elementary CSS school sites (Armstrong, Marshall Road, Eagle View, and Olde Creek) accompanied by FCPS staff. He toured the schools, observed classrooms, and met staff, students, and administrators. Another follow up visit will be scheduled at the beginning of the school year for Saratoga, Laurel Ridge, Woodlawn, and Burke. A question was asked about what the plan is for Key and Kilmer Centers, because seclusion and restraint are still permitted at those schools next school year. Central office is working on separate training plans in conjunction with ABA services. Dr. Greene has the most experience with students who are in a general education setting, so they are starting at those sites. There are plans for expanding to other schools as well as parent engagement.
- Mike personally delivered the First Class Awards to the educators who were recognized at the virtual Special Education Conference.
- Jane Strong shared that staff have been hard at work on recovery services, hiring staff and standing up a new summer recovery program (in addition to ESY). Jane is retiring from FCPS and moving to Georgia to be an assistant professor of Special Education at a local university.

**Old Business:**

- Connie presented the ACSD Annual Report to the School Board in May. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vx0iR-CF2oU&t=2s>
- Some members of the ACSD attended the May 26 Equity Action Plan Focus Group to provide feedback to Dr. Williams and her office.
- Connie provided HR with feedback from ACSD members regarding the hiring of a new Director of Procedural Support.

**New Business:**

- Connie shared that she has appointed Ally to be our liaison to the Equity of Access to Literacy Committee, whose work will be ongoing. The committee will be led by Sloan Presidio.

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**Elections:**

- The nominating committee slate consisted of
  - Joanne Walton, Vice Chair
  - Ally Baldassari, Secretary
- Sandi nominated Harry Henderson as Chair
  
- The nominated candidates were elected unanimously. There is still an opening for another Secretary.

**Announcements:**

- Please respond to Natashi Anthony's email if you are interested in serving on the committee next year. The school board must approve the nominations over the summer.
  
- Mike will work with the newly elected officers to schedule the September meeting and onboarding and communication
  
- SEPTA's Awards program is available on their YouTube channel.
  
- Congratulations to Connie on her last meeting! Thank you for your 16 years of service.

**Meeting adjourned:** Connie adjourned the meeting at 8:23 p.m.