

**Fairfax County Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities (ACSD)
Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2020**

Member Name		Organization	Attendance
Darcy	Acquavella	City of Fairfax School Board	P
Ally	Baldassari ***	SEPTA	P
Liz	Brocato	Braddock District-Megan McLaughlin	P
Sandi	Dalhoff	Neighborhood & Community Services	P
Susan	Edgerton	Member at Large-Rachna Sizemore-Heizer	P
Mary Kate	Ganley	Student Representative	E
James	Gillespie	Fairfax/Falls Church Community Services Board	P
Meghan	Gray	Lee District-Tamara Derenak Kaufax	P
Harry	Henderson	Mason District-Ricardy Anderson	P
Lissy	John	Dranesville District-Elaine Tholen	P
Lynn	Kiewel	Fairfax Co. Health Dept.	P
Connie	Lorentzen *	Mount Vernon District-Karen Corbett Sanders	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, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Department of Special Services
- Jane Strong, Director of the Office of Procedural Support
- Ellie Stack, Coordinator, Special Education Instruction
- Denise Forrest, Coordinator, Early Childhood Identification and Services
- Mary Beth Harrison-Cunningham, Director of the Parent Resource Center
- Dawn Clements, Assistant Ombudsman for Special Education

School Board Members Present:

- Rachna Sizemore Heizer, At-Large, Committee Liaison
- Karen Corbett-Sanders, Mount Vernon District
- Laura Jane Cohen, Springfield District
- Meghan McLaughlin, Braddock District
- Abrar Omeish, 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.

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

Committee Orientation:

- Connie welcomed everyone to the 2020-21 committee and allowed for introductions.
- Connie gave an informational presentation about the role and responsibilities of the ACSD.
- The committee participated in some team building exercises.
- Ally reviewed the subcommittees and their roles: Policy & Regulation, Student Achievement and Outcomes, Family Engagement and Outreach, and the School Board Charge. All members must participate in at least one subcommittee. Members will choose their subcommittees at our next meeting in September.
- Ann-Marie led a brief discussion about current concerns and unmet needs. The ideas brainstormed will be transferred to Google documents for each subcommittee to access as they determine their focus for the year.
 - Inconsistencies from school to school in delivery of special education programming
 - Packets from school were not appropriate, parents have trouble helping their children with virtual learning
 - MS/HS electives for special education or remediation conflict with fun electives
 - Virtual access to mental health, social workers, psychologists
 - Virtual implementation of behavior intervention plans
 - Social emotional learning for special education students
 - Training for parents and teachers, particularly for social emotional learning
 - Training for SACC staff on special education, when assisting with virtual learning
 - Middle school – team taught classes for foreign languages
 - Twice exceptional students – advanced diplomas – can’t get the required courses as team taught, with appropriate services
 - How to make recommendations to school board – virtual vs. hybrid vs. return to school vs. post-pandemic
 - Inclusive programs – best practices and building relationships between students with and without disabilities
 - Communication flow – facilitate a town hall virtually

The committee took a brief break and reconvened at 7:06 p.m.

Agenda & Minutes:

- Ann-Marie presented the minutes from the June meeting. Mike motioned to approve the June 10 minutes as presented. Darcy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Ann-Marie introduced the agenda for the meeting. Joanne motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Darcy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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Public Comment:

- There were no public comments submitted.

Parent Resource Center News:

- **Mary Beth Harrison-Cunningham**, Director of the PRC, provided an update. Flyers and materials were sent via email for the committee to share with their constituents. The PRC is still working virtually, offering services to families, staff, and community members. Available via phone, email, or virtual platforms for meetings. They have electronic resources to share. September webinars: Ann Dolin – Sep 1 (evening – 550 people registered) and Sep 11 (daytime – 350 people registered). Kirk Martin – Sep 18 (morning, evening). Behavior Intervention team series – one per month (morning, evening). Library materials are not yet available for check out, but they are hoping to get access to the building soon.

Reopening Schools Plan:

- **Mike Bloom, Jane Strong, Ellie Stack, and Denise Forrest** presented updates on the Special Education Reopening Schools plan. They reviewed sample schedules for early childhood (resource, class based, PAC) and adapted curriculum (elementary and secondary). They explained the expectations for elementary and secondary general education students. The differences between synchronous and asynchronous instruction were discussed. Nontraditional schools, public day schools, and career center programs are also making plans for how to serve their students virtually, as determined by the IEP team. Review of expectations for Related Service Providers: Speech Language Pathologists, OT/PT, School Psychologists and Social Workers, teachers of deaf/hard of hearing and visually impaired, adapted PE, assistive technology, paraprofessionals (instructional assistants), behavioral intervention and ABA. Training videos will be available for parents. Multi-agency services for private school placements is monitoring those students. Procedural supports: eligibility/reevaluations/assessments resuming. No TLPs, IEPs will be amended as necessary before school begins. 504 plans may also be adjusted if needed. VDOE Guidance on Recovery Services is available.
- Questions from the Committee
 - What is the format of the Monday intervention time? 3 hours on Mondays used by teachers for targeted intervention or specialized instruction or related services.
 - How much support will need to be provided by parents? What kind of training will parents be given?
 - SEPTA sent a list of questions, when will there be a response? More information will also be shared in the school board session on Tuesday. Will also update the FCPS website.

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Special Education Update:

- **Jane Strong** updated about policies on Restraint and Seclusion. State regulation requires the local school boards to develop their own policy in line with the state regulation. The ACSD will be involved in the school board work process. Implementation will occur by January 1, 2021. Crisis Prevention and Policy Specialist is a new position in the Office of Procedural Support.

Chair Update / New Business:

- Connie discussed the process of finding the new Assistant Superintendent of Special Services. She served on the community panel on behalf of the ACSD. Ally will serve on the citizen review board for the interview process for the new Chief Equity and Academics Officer. The executive committee helped collaborate on the charge to be approved by the school board on September 3.
- ACSD annual report to be presented to school board on October 13 at 6 p.m.
- Connie moved that the ACSD 2020-21 standing committees be
 - Executive Committee
 - Nominating Committee
 - Policy and Regulation
 - Student Achievement and Outcomes
 - Family Engagement and Outreach
 - School Board Charge

Joanne seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- ACSD has an opening for Vice Chair, nominations will be accepted from the floor at the September meeting.
- Looking at having an SR&R revisions presentation for September meeting.
- Next meeting is September 9 at 5 p.m.

Old Business:

- Special Education Handbook for parents – still in progress?
- Revised eligibility forms (BCDs)
- Restraint and seclusion policy – Jane updated above

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Member Time:

- Supporting Return to School (SRS) – 37 elementary schools for students K-6 (Key and Kilmer for special education students up to age 21), led by SACC staff. Flexibility on who can participate. Fee waivers when appropriate. Registration opens next Monday. Share flyers via social media, available by Parent Resource Center.
- Has the committee received a final copy of the 2019-20 ACSD report? It's on the USB drive but should be kept confidential until October presentation.
- SEPTA will be holding virtual meetings. Wednesday, September 2 – Special Education binder workshop. Looking for new members – www.fairfaxcountysepta.org
- Independent Special Education Audit – the school board requested an independent review (similar to AAP review last year) – Joanne served on the RFP selection panel.
- Check out the ACSD social media pages and help share our posts!
 - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FCPSACSD>
 - Twitter: https://twitter.com/FCPS_ACSD

Meeting adjourned: Connie adjourned the meeting at 8:31 p.m.