

**Fairfax County Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities (ACSD)  
Meeting Minutes  
September 9, 2020**

Member Name		Organization	Attendance
Darcy	Acquavella	City of Fairfax School Board	P
Ally	Baldassari ***	SEPTA	P
Liz	Brocato	Braddock District-Megan McLaughlin	P
Sanaa	Bouzit	Member at Large-Abrar Omeish	P
Brandon	Cassady	Hunter Mill District-Melanie Meren	P
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 Kaufax	P
Mary	Hackman	Providence District-Karl Frisch	P
Harry	Henderson	Mason District-Ricardy Anderson	P
Lissy	John	Dranesville District-Elaine Tholen	P
Lynn	Kiewel	Fairfax Co. Health Dept.	P
Toby	Latham	Springfield District-Laura Jane Cohen	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	P
<b>* Chair **Vice-Chair *** Secretary P = Present E = Excused Absence R = Resigned</b>			

**FCPS Staff Who Were Present:**

- Mike Bloom, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Department of Special Services
- 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

**School Board Members Present:**

- Rachna Sizemore Heizer, At-Large, Committee Liaison
- Abrar Omeish, At-Large
- Karen Keys-Gamarra, At-Large

**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 August meeting. There was a revision to update the title of the Chief Equity and Academics Officer in the Chair Update / New Business. Joanne motioned to approve the August 17 minutes as amended. Ally seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Ann-Marie introduced the agenda for the meeting. Connie amended the agenda to move the SR&R Presentation to be after the Special Education Update. Joanne motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Ally seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment:**

- There were no public comments submitted.

**Election of Vice Chair**

- There were no nominations for the position so it will remain unfilled.

**Parent Resource Center News:**

- **Mary Beth Harrison-Cunningham**, Director of the PRC, provided an update on upcoming webinars for the Fall. The PRC YouTube channel contains many recordings of previous workshops and webinars. There are also straight to YouTube videos about virtual learning. They are working on a collaboration with Early Childhood and ITC called Pathways to Preschool, with a playlist on YouTube. You can now email or call the PRC to request library resources be sent to your child's school to be picked up via the school library. The Dunn Loring center will be open one day a week by appointment for pick-up also. Drop box outside to return materials. Registration for October webinars now open.

**Special Education Update:**

- **Mike Bloom** shared some updates about the start of school. Virtual school began successfully, and Mike shared his thanks to all staff for their hard work. He acknowledged that some families are struggling with the virtual format and the central office is helping to support schools to provide supports as needed. Work continues on a phased in approach to bring students in need back to physical school as soon as practicable. He shared a document of virtual orientation considerations for students with disabilities. It is a list of resources for

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staff to use in helping students learn how to use virtual tools and learn etiquette for the virtual classroom. A concern was brought up that not all staff received the document – why not send resources directly to staff – communication is not set-up for central office to send to all staff. There is a special education resource hub that contains all resources for school opening. Can parents access these materials? They are currently housed in the FCPS Google Suite, so not accessible to the public.

- A question was asked about connectivity issues, why some sessions might work and others not (even in the same house). There was not an answer available.
- A question was asked about whether related services are provided virtually, and the answer is yes. Services are provided on a continuum, from large group to small group to individual. Services can be provided virtually in intervention time on Monday. Parents must sign an informed consent form for related services. IEP amendment covers services in the virtual environment. Some in-person related services might be possible with the phase-in of cohorts.
- Question in how cohort plan was developed – were stakeholders included? Targeting groups that might have the most challenge. Rachna mentioned that a work session on Return to School will be September 22.
- **Jane Strong** presented an overview of the development of the FCPS policy on Restraint and Seclusion in FCPS. On July 25, Virginia BoE approved the regulations. All divisions must use the state regulation and turn it into local policy. Effective January 1, 2021.
  - All personnel involved with students – level one trained
  - All special education personnel who work with students who may engage in behavior – level 2 training
  - Every building must have one admin trained in level 2
  - R&S only as last resort, after positive behavior intervention has been exhausted
  - Parents notified day of occurrence
  - Incidence reports of use must be completed within 2 business days.
  - Written form shall be provided to parents within 7 calendar days.
  - FCPS putting components into proposed Policy and Regulation
  - Reviewed by ACSD Policy and Regulation subcommittee and entire ACSD committee
  - Reviewed by School Board Governance Committee and entire School Board
  - Virginia Regulation requires policy to be posted online and reviewed annually
- A question was asked about training – the state has criteria for each level of training. FCPS has two types of level 2 training already in place.
- Ross Greene had planned to give a presentation in the spring – has not yet been rescheduled – trying to work out logistics/timing – in-person vs. virtual environment.
- Regulations are general and don't categorize placements or type of disability.
- POAC Nova, Trauma Informed Schools, SEPTA have suggestions/recommendations - how can they be involved in process? Still determining a community engagement process.
- Question was asked how FCPS is not in line with Virginia regulation? Not prepared to present that tonight but that will become clear as the FCPS policy is developed.

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- Question about when Virginia says seclusion could be justified. Recommended to read the regulation for details.
- Are there cameras in FCPS seclusion rooms? No. Training will be re-done for all staff in FCPS for the new requirements.
- Question about documentation. Paper documentation has been required since 2012.
- 2020 ACSD report has not been presented to the school board but DSS will consult the section regarding restraint and seclusion.

**Presentation on Student Rights and Responsibilities Updates**

- Carey Williams and Deb Scott gave a presentation on the updates to the SR&R.
- Informed by State legislative changes and Discipline study / equity plan
  - Changes to dress code, including head coverings
  - New discipline codes
  - Reflective considerations for Discipline Flow Chart
  - Threat Assessment Language / BHMS entries for harassment and bullying
  - Removal of Title IX language, since it's covered by federal guidelines
  - Self-defense footnote
  - 1<sup>st</sup> time possession and use
  - Mandatory reporting to police (how do principals know if it's a felony? There is documentation available to principals)
  - Notification of Right to Appeal
  - Parent Notification for ID/DD students
  - IEP Team Language
  - Protections for Students with 504 plans
- Improvements to the family guide – more user friendly, flow charts
- Hybrid Distribution model – parents review materials online with videos
  - School will post form on website for parents to complete
  - Paper copies will be available from the school

**Old Business:**

- Revised parent handbook
- Revised BCDs

**Chair Update / New Business:**

- Chair was invited to serve on the panel for the CIO.
- New and returning members should consult the binder (via USB in the mail)
- 3 or more members meeting must be advertised with 3 day notice and must be open to the public.
- The ACSD may submit periodic reports, letters, motions to the school board/superintendent, and ask for presentations to the committee

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- Motions for the committee / additions to the agenda should be sent to the chair a week before the meeting.
- Ally made a motion to update the ACSD FCPS website about public comment. Would like to add written testimony as an option. No more than 3 minutes of written testimony would be read. Dena seconded.
  - Ally mentioned that this is the second consecutive meeting with no public comment. She would like to lower the barriers to public comment and feels that audio and video might discourage people from commenting. Dena mentioned that before she joined the committee, she didn't know how to participate.
  - The motion passed unanimously.

**Member Time:**

- New members were given a chance to introduce themselves.

**Subcommittees:**

- Members need to choose from one of four subcommittees: Family Engagement & Outreach, Student Achievement and Outcomes, Policy and Regulation, and School Board Charge
- Subcommittees will meet between 5-7 pm prior to the next meeting on October 14.
- Please note that the 2019 bylaws have not been approved by the Governance Committee.
- Family Engagement & Outreach
  - Darcy Acquavella
  - Ally Baldassari
  - Liz Brocato
  - Brandon Cassady
  - Sandi Dalhoff
  - James Gillespie
  - Meghan Gray
  - Lissy John
  - Lynn Kiewel
  - Mike Simon
  - Joanne Walton
  - Ann-Marie Ward
- Student Achievement & Outcomes
  - Brandon Cassady
  - Mary Hackman
  - Linda Mason
  - Niki Zimmerman

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- Policy & Regulation
  - Ally Baldassari
  - Brianne Russell-Morris
  - Dena Sonneborn
  
- School Board Charge
  - Brandon Cassady
  - Susan Edgerton
  - Toby Latham

**Meeting adjourned:** Connie adjourned the meeting at 9:16 p.m.