

**Fairfax County Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities (ACSD)
Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2018**

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm.

Members Present:

Member Name		Member Name		Member Name	
		Adrienne Konstas			
Diane Allen	E	Toby Latham	E		
Michael Beattie	P				
Cheri Belkowitz**	P	Connie Lorentzen	E		
Brandon Cassady	P	Katie Malesky	E		
Theresa Simonds Casselman	P	Linda Mason	P		
Shreya Chappidi	P	Jessica Mayo	E		
Sandi Dallhoff	P	Michael Montante	P		
Susan Edgerton	P				
Lisa Anne Fagan	E	Jennifer Vladyka	P		
Judy Farabaugh	P	Jane Wilson	E		
Meghan Gray	P	Cindy Woodock	P		
Rachna Heizer	P	Jenn Wright			
Harry Henderson					
Melissa Johnson	P				
Sajjad Khan**	P				

- **Committee Chairs** ****Vice-Chair** ***** Committee Secretary** **P = Present** **E = Excused** **R = Resigned**

FCPS Staff Present: Irene Meier, Teresa Johnson, Jane Strong

FCPS School Board Member: Pat Hynes (not present)

Board Member Liaison Report: None

Guests:

Minutes Judy Farabaugh made a motion to approve the January minutes, Susan Edgerton 2nd the motion. Two corrections were made, Cheri Belkowitz and Jennifer Vladyka need to be changed from Excused to Present. January minutes were approved, MSPU. Additionally, Judy Farabaugh made a motion to approve the January Agenda and Michael Beattie 2nd the motion. January Agenda was approved, MSPU.

Public Comment:

Diane Cooper Gould, president of Fairfax County SEPTA, addressed the committee about the benefits of advertisements and promotions for SEPTA and the ACSD. Ms. Gould has two children in special education and only heard of the ACSD about two years ago. She said she feels this is the norm and wondered how we can speak for a special needs population of 26 thousand if no one is aware they have representation.

Melanie – Melanie has a son with high functioning autism in fourth grade. She explained to the committee the previous issues she and her son have had. For example, when problems arose teachers and school officials asked her if she had tried organized sports and social activities or if she had kept him home prior to kindergarten. He was sent home often and her job eventually was in jeopardy. He eventually was labeled low failure and sent to an ED center. She has had to hire a specialist out of pocket for extra therapies and tutoring. He is bullied. She wanted the committee to consider “there is place for emotionally disabled kids. There’s a

place for low functioning Autistic kids, but there should be a place for high functioning Autistic kids and there is not. There is a flaw in the system.”

Special Education Update:

- Teresa Johnson – there will be audio from the February 15th conference on dyslexia available
- Irene Meier– just returned from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) conference in Florida. They were excited to have a recruiter from HR attend and they were able to recruit 5 new teachers with the potential for a 6th

Parent Resource Center Update:

- Mary Beth sent flyers for upcoming workshops via email.
- PRC is working on the 4th YouTube video, they have received a positive response from them thus far.
- PRC won another grant from VDOE – going to be doing a Library time for preschoolers ages 4-6 over the summer, 4 week session in July, centered on skills from Mind in the Making.

New Business:

- Cheri Belkowitz – promoted JCC’s ReelAbilities Film Festival March 10-18
- Rachna Heizer– Fairfax County is proclaiming February to be Developmental Disability inclusion month and have invited her son Jake to accept the award.
- Brandon Cassady– mentioned that we need to screen or onboard teachers with more diverse abilities
- Suggestion was made for members of SEPTA to support the ACSD table at the SPED conference.
- Judy Farabaugh made a suggestion to invite the new super intendent to one of our ACSD meeting. Teresa said that she would extend the invite

Budget Subcommittee Letter Vote

- The budget subcommittee memo to the school board contains observations of the FY19 proposed budget compared to historical trends. It is intended to build awareness of special education budgeting concerns that may impact FAPE.
- A motion was made by Meghan Gray, seconded by Rachna to approve the letter as written by the subcommittee to be given to the school board. Irene made a correction that there are actually 17 Behavior Intervention Teachers (BITS), for the county. Motion was put to a vote, Judy Farabaugh abstained, the vote carried.

Subcommittee Work:

- **4 subcommittees and current membership:**
 - **Follow-up Committee** – Judy Farabaugh, Sajjad Khan, Cheri Belkowitz
 - **Unmet needs Committee** – Michael Montante, Toby Latham (chair), Meghan Gray, Brandon Cassady
 - **Prek-6 Inclusion Charge Committee** – Cindy Woodcock (chair), Melissa Johnson, Meghan Gray, Toby Latham, Lisa Fagan, Harry Henderson
 - **Secondary Inclusion Charge Subcommittee** – Rachna Heizer (co-chair), Connie Lorentzen (co-chair), Jane Wilson, Susan Edgerton, Diane Allen, Linda Mason, Brandon Cassady, Sandi Dallhoff; Jennifer Vladyka, Jessica Mayo, Shreya Chappidi, Michael Beattie
 - **Budget sub-committee** – Connie Lorentzen (chair), Melissa Johnson, Michael Montante

2017-2018 School Board Charge: The committee should examine practices throughout the school division related to providing services at the building level for students with disabilities in grades preK-12 for the purposes of maximizing inclusion in educating students with disabilities in their base school.

- Examine how students with disabilities are making progress in the general education curriculum (IDEA, 2004). Explore “progress” as supported by, at a minimum, student growth progression, cohort progression, national data and parental goals.
- Examine current FCPS staffing practices and facility adequacy and limitations to evaluate efficacy in delivering services at the building level while meeting the needs of a diverse population of students with disabilities in grades pre-K-12 with current composition of FCPS facilities.

Adjournment: 8:35 pm

Next ACSD meeting: March 14, 2018 at 7pm

Minutes submitted by: Jennifer Vladyka and Sandi Dallhoff

Handout 1: The Special Education Update, February 2018

Handout 2: Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities Subcommittee Duties