

**Fairfax County Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities (ACSD)  
Meeting Minutes  
June 14, 2017**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm. The June agenda and May's meeting minutes could not be adopted.

**Members Present:**

Member Name		Member Name		Member Name	
Jugnu Agrawal	p	Morgan Jameson			
Diane Allen		*Sajjad Kahn	P		
***Amy Anderson	P	Adrienne Konstas-Salvette		Jennifer Vladyka	P
*Cheri Belkowitz	P	Young Kim		Jane Wilson	
Beth Botwright		Peggy King-Sears	P	Cindy Woodcock	
Scott Campbell	P	Connie Lorentzen	P		
Brandon Cassady	P	Jessica Mayo	P		
Sandi Dallhoff	P	Michael Montante	P		
Lisa Anne Fagan					
Judy Farabaugh	P				
Susan Hecker					
Rachna Heizer					
Harry Henderson					
Jay Hilbert					
Beth Hoyos					

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

**FCPS Staff Present:** Jane Lipp, Irene Meier, Mary Beth Harrison Cunningham

**FCPS School Board Member:** None

**Board Member Liaison Report:** None

**Guests:** None

**Public Comment:** None

**Special Education Update:**

Sajjad Khan presented on delivery of ACSD report to the School Board. It was well received as a whole but one new board member questioned the tone of the ACSD report and wondered if the ACSD was being critical of School Board. An ACSD member raised concerns that this board member seemed to be more focused on the tone and not on the issues raised in the report. He reiterated that the committee's mandate is to look for unmet needs and make recommendations. Dr. Lipp reports feedback from board members who were complimentary of the report and stated strong support for special education services. Board members have asked to visit SE and alternative educational programs.

Health and Wellness Conference will be held at Fairfax High School and will be held on October 21, 2021. There will be additional sessions about elementary mental health needs. Jill Jilkowski is heading up the conference. Interested ACSD members should contact her about presenting.

With a short summer, there will not be as many summer programs. Research being done by Dr. Kenmore through NHI but follow-up requires MRI which cannot be approved by FCPS

Flexible Futures is being rolled out.

No summer literacy institute due to short summer.

Other Special Education programs are listed in the June 2017 "Special Education Update"

**Parent Resource Center Update:** Working on plans for next year's programs. Goal is to bring in more community resources, including Families Forward and Trauma Network, Dr. Leipzig – Dyslexia expert;

The PRC is implementing Google Forms for tutors to help parents find tutors more easily.

Judy Farabaugh suggested that it would be good to know which languages are most in demand at the PRC (beyond English and Spanish) in order to better understand the needs of parents as well as schools. The PRC hopes to do more outreach to different cultures at all levels including high school. Robin Hmaby has created Parent Outreach Form in several languages.

#### **Other Announcements:**

Scott Campbell brought flyers; Therapeutic Recreation's summer programs are mostly full; are now able to meet needs for different ratios in classrooms.

Cheri Belkowitz attended advanced CEAC training and came back with the following observations:

- FCPS has different format than the rest of the state in terms of the charge.
- Ms. Belkowitz raised idea of having ways to address needs outside the Board charge.
- We are the largest school district and we have very poor showing at our meetings of parents, advocates, etc. We could do a marketing campaign to increase awareness of our committee to let people know that we are a forum to channel needs and wants to the school board and administration.

Connie Lorentzen gave history: the ACSD did not have charge until Jack Dale; looked for unmet needs – which is what the law says the ACSD should be doing. We should answer the charge, but not limit ourselves to the charge. She also noted that FCPS is a huge bureaucracy – parents don't know about the PRC, the pony delivery of books to local schools, etc. Ms. Lorentzen also encouraged ACSD members to contact their school board member to remind them to refer SE parents to ACSD. Judy Farabaugh also reported that years ago there was a video about the ACSD which played regularly on Channel 21.

Dr. Lipp also said that the structure of FCPS means that parent concerns will not always come to ACSD. Dr. Lipp's employees answered over 9,000 questions from parents this year alone.

ACSD Member Suggestions about Outreach and Highlighting the ACSD:

- adding ACSD information to Back to School packets/posters/information sent home and to schools in August. Perhaps a video about ACSD could be added to PRC website.
- asking parents who attend ACSD meetings how they find out about the ACSD – add it to guest sign-in sheet.
- creating podcasts about SE in FCPS. These could be located on PRS website.
- sending information about ACSD to principals AND PTA presidents.

Irene Meier has asked for a PTA representative from PTA Council. We need a student representative as well. Chairs will reach out to the students. A member requested that the student representative have special needs themselves and receive services under IEP. There may be HIPPA complications. Transportation is also an issue for students.

The committee celebrated the retirement of Dr. Jane Lipp. Dr. Lipp stated her appreciation for the advocacy of the ACSD for students with disabilities in FCPS; as well as the continued financial support of the continuum of services our school system provides.

#### **New Business:**

Addrienne Konstas-Salvette will be joining the ACSD and will represent the League of Women Voters. She attended this month's meeting.

Follow-up committee will meet in September. Dr. Meier talked about how helpful it has been in the past to remind FCPS staff about recommendations.

Davis Center had a great transition ceremony last night. Chad Clayton is the new principal. He moved over to that position from SE administration. The keynote speaker, David Eagen, will be a speaker at the SE Conference next year. Ryan McElveen, school board member, was present as well.

US Dept. of State brought delegates from the Republic of Georgia who were interested in parent advocacy. Irene Meier and Mary Beth Harrison Cunningham met with them at the Parent Resource Center. They run their own programs; talked about how programs are financed and that parents aren't charged. They knew about IDEA. They will also be going to Davis, Pimmit Hills Preschool and Kilmer Center. They use the English word for "dyslexia". They had many questions about autism. They only provide services through the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Parents are not involved in IEP creation; they are told about what services their children will receive. Dr. Meier will send the dyslexia handbook that FCPS has developed.

Stacey Johnson, principal of Chantilly HS, which has many programs including a CSS, will take Jane Lipp's position. She has held several SE positions including positive behavioral support.

Nominating committee: Chair nominees will be Sajjad Khan and Cheri Belkowitz. For secretary, there is no nominee for secretary – the person who agreed is no longer on the committee. The nominating committee will have to find, hopefully, co-secretaries.

Sandy Dallhoff raised issue of lack of quorums in several meetings this year and absenteeism. School board gets attendance reports twice a year. In the past, the board members were asked to contact their representatives if they are not attending.

Sandy Dallhoff also suggested looking to see if there are groups who should be represented on the ACSD. Dr. Meier wants to add representatives from POHAC and PEETSIE – who said they are not allowed to send representatives. Cheri Belkowitz suggested having new members sign statements of intent to attend and participate in monthly meetings.

Scott Campbell and Amy Anderson are stepping down from the committee.

**2016-2017 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 and define successful nationwide evidence-based practices in delivering services at the building level (grade Pre-K – 12\_ and identify FCPS schools which model best practices in order to scale and implement practices to schools at all levels (preschool, elementary, secondary).
- Examine how students with disabilities are accessing the general education curriculum through the continuum of services offered by FCPS.
- 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.

#### **Subcommittees for 2016-17:**

**Elementary Sub-committee:** Lisa Fagan, Chris Narbut, Amy Anderson, Judy Farbaugh, Young Kim, Michael Montante, Beth Botwright, Cindy Woodcock, Harry Henderson

**Secondary Sub-committee:** Brandon Cassady, Jane Wilson, Beth Hoyos, Sandi Dallhoff, Rachna Heizer, Connie Lorentzen, Morgan Jameson, Jessica Mayo, Jennifer Vladyka.

**Follow-up Sub-committee:** Judy Farbaugh, Scott Campbell

**Adjournment:** 9:05 pm

**Next ACSD meeting:** XXXX XX, 2017

**Minutes submitted by:**

**Handout 1:** The Special Education Update, June 2017

**Handout 2:** The FCPS Parent Resource Center newsletter