

**Fairfax County Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities (ACSD)
Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2019**

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Members Present

Member Name		Member Name		Member Name	
Darcy Acquavella (City of Fairfax School Board)	P	Jeanne Frost (Fairfax Co. Health Dept.)	P	Connie Lorentzen** (Mount Vernon District)	P
Laura Allen (Region 5)	P	Meghan Gray (Lee District)	P	Linda Mason (Higher Education)	--
Joe Alston (Member-at-Large Moon)	--	Rachna Heizer (Member-at-Large Keys-Gamarra)	P	Darcy Mills (Student Rep)	--
Michael Beattie (Disability Services Bd.)	P	Harry Henderson (Mason District)	--	Phara Rodrigue (Region 3)	P
Cheri Belkowitz* (Springfield District)	P	Elizabeth John (Dranesville District)	P	Joanne Walton (Region 4)	P
Jessica Bradley Fairfax County Federation of Citizens)	P	Melissa Johnson (Faculty)	P	Ann-Marie Ward (FCCPTA)	P
Michelle Cades (Special Education PTA)	P	Paul Keiser (Region 1)	P	Cathy White (Transition Services)	P
Brandon Cassady (Hunter Mill District)	P	Andrienne Konstas (League of Women Voters)	--	Jane Wilson (Braddock District)	P
Sandi Dallhoff *** (Neigh. & Comm. Services)	--	Toby Latham*** (Assistive Technology)	P	Cindy Woodcock (Preschool)	P
Susan Edgerton (POAC)	P	Erin Lauer (Fairfax/Falls Church CSB)	P	Niki Zimmerman (Region 2)	--
Judy Farabaugh (Member-at-Large McElveen)	P				

***Committee Chair(s) **Vice-Chair *** Committee Secretary**

P = Present

E = Excused Absence

R = Resigned

FCPS Staff Present

- Teresa Johnson, Department of Special Services
- Irene Meier, Office of Special Education Instruction
- Mary Beth Harrison-Cunningham, Parent Resource Center

School Board Member: Elizabeth Schultz present

Agenda & Minutes

- Connie Lorentzen presented minutes. Connie Lorentzen moved to amend the minutes to read, in a bullet point on the second page, “Sandi Dallhoff provided flyers for therapeutic recreation staff opportunities.” Michael Beattie seconded motion. Motion passed with unanimous vote. Minutes adopted, as amended, by unanimous vote.
- Connie Lorentzen introduced the agenda. Joanne Walton moved to add to new business a discussion about hosting a town hall in May 2019. Motion seconded by Michael Beattie. Motion passed by unanimous vote. Agenda adopted, as amended, by unanimous vote.

Public Comment

- Amanda Campbell—full comment submitted in writing to committee. Subjects addressed in comment included the narrow scope of subjects offered at Special Education conference work sessions; the workload of assistive technology services staff; and the district’s response to WAMU report regarding the district’s use of restraint and seclusion.
- Kassandra Smith—full comment submitted in writing to committee. Comment addressed the lack of timely homebound services for behavioral reasons, resulting in adverse action at base school, and administrator’s comments regarding student’s choice between a CSS site and an overcrowded base school where student would be placed at the top of a list of students to monitor because of past behavior.

PRC Update

- Locally verified credit workshop scheduled tonight and one more on March 27.
- Special Education Conference—two speakers will have their books and other material at the conference. One presenter authored book regarding procrastination. Kirk Martin, Celebrate Calm, will have his parenting material available. PRC flyers for remainder of the year made available to the committee. In May, PRC will host workshop regarding digital citizenship and another around emergency preparedness. In June, PRC will host a make-and-take event where summer activities/programs will be made available to students at various levels (e.g., preschool, kindergarten, elementary school, etc.).

Special Education Update

- Teresa Johnson—Thanked Irene’s teams for working with testing services on testing accommodations guideline. Group satisfied the March 1 state deadline. Reminded committee that district is in the budget cycle and thanked those who have advocated for additional behavioral service support. Hiring cycle for building level has started, and committee members are encouraged to send highly qualified applicants to work in FCPS.
- Irene Meier—District is recruiting around the country to fill vacant positions. Excited about keynote speaker at Special Education conference. ESY administrator hiring opened today. First Class Award nomination process closed, and selection process is starting.

New Business

- Special Education Annual Plan Review—Power Point Presentation. Lea Skurpski, Director, OSP. Jackie Prentice, budget coordinator. Reviewed special education plan components. Final plan will be submitted to VDOE on May 10. Presentation addressed the following topics: Annual Service Plan; Special Education Enrollment; School Year 2017-2018 Activities (e.g., eligibility evaluations and speech screenings); SY 2017-2018 Expenditures by Funding Source; Maintenance of Effort (MOE); Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS); Proposed Use of IDEA 2019-2020 Funds, \$37.0 Million; IDEA Expenditures by Category; and Financial Summary for SY 2019-2020. School is working on expanding use of Medicaid funding.
- Subcommittee Reports
 - Paul Keiser: Reviewing governance manual for opportunities to incorporate language regarding to students with disabilities.
 - Student Achievement and Outcomes: Reviewed VDOE data to identify opportunities for growth. Draft recommendations include: disaggregating data by student types (e.g., physical versus non-physical behavior) to determine whether particular subgroups are not performing as well as others; track reasons for students with disabilities dropping out of school; research substantial achievement gap between students with disabilities and other groups; review school practices when students fail to succeed after transitioning to higher levels in the system; and clarify the schools guidelines to be transparent about discipline
 - Family Engagement and Outreach: Handout provided at meeting. Group reached out to other SEACs to determine how they engage in outreach. Draft recommendations include: distribute ACSD information in various locations; engage the committee in outreach activities. Committee member recommended organizing and interview with Fairfax County Public Access. School Board Member Schultz offered to announce at school board meetings the upcoming advisory committee meetings. Committee member suggested making video for back-to-school night. Parent liaisons have quarterly meeting to attend.
 - Transition (i.e., school board charge): Handout provided at meeting.
- Joanne Walton moved that the committee take the necessary steps to hold a town hall in May, in collaboration with the School Board. Michael Beattie, seconded the motion. Committee members commented on schedule and format of the event. Connie Lorentzen asked if Joanne would amend her motion to replace “town hall” with “meet and greet”; Joanne accepted the recommendation. Potential date, May 22, at Luther Jackson noted. Committee voted unanimously in favor of motion, as amended.
- First Class Awards—executive committee will review applications and select student, teacher, and administrator recipients.
- 14th Annual Special Education Conference—over 500 people registered.

Announcements

- “Abira and the Mountain” viewing coming up. Dr. Brabrand joining.
- Welcoming Inclusion Network. March 18th at Service Source. WIN Phase II meeting.
- March 19, quarterly SEPTA meeting. CHADD and Formed Families Forward co-sponsored event, at Key Middle.

Meeting adjourned: 9:11p.m.