

Fairfax County Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities (ACSD)
Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2019

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Members Present

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

***Committee Chair(s) **Vice-Chair *** Committee Secretary**
P = Present E = Excused Absence R = Resigned

FCPS Staff Present

- Teresa Johnson, Department of Special Services
- Jane Strong, Director Office of Special Education Procedural Support
- Mary Beth Harrison-Cunningham, Parent Resource Center
- Mike Bloom, Acting Director, OSEI
- Dr. Scott S. Brabrand, Superintendent

School Board Member: Elizabeth Schultz (present)

Agenda & Minutes

- Connie Lorentzen presented minutes. Judy Farabaugh moved to approved the minutes Joanne Walton seconded motion. Motion to change the spelling of the first public comment to “Meegan” Motion passed with unanimous vote.
- Connie Lorentzen introduced the agenda. Judy Farabaugh moved to approve the agenda; motion was seconded by Phara Rodrigue. Motion to move the photo to after the PRC update. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Public Comment

- There was no one present for public comment

PRC Update

- Educator lunch and learns in July, one will be on Collaborative IEPs for educators, and one on Educators Self Care
- Annual VDOE survey sent to all Special Education families is set to be coming out from VDOE by end of May. PRC will send survey to all schools and ask the school to distribute to their families, there are paper and electronic copies available in both English and Spanish. We do have the highest return rate of surveys in the state.

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Special Education Update – Presented by Teresa

- Teresa Johnson
 - Announced that Michelle Cades is the new SEPTA president.
 - Putting together a task force around seclusion and restraint. Asking for a rep from the ACSD. First meeting date will be in June.
 - Teresa will send a list of representatives that have been invited to be a part of the task force
 - Teresa mentioned that many of the school admins will be at a conference during the ACSD open house
- Mike Bloom
 - attended the SEPTA awards and it was a very great event.
 - Completed hiring of 17 administrators for ESY, continuing the hiring for 300 teachers and 600 resource staff to support the ESY program
 - Great Beginnings teacher's induction program. This year they implemented a new model where they provided 10 monthly sessions, each around different important topics for first year teachers. This month completed the 10th month and it was successful
 - Scoring of VAP binders was completed last week. Completed over 1000 binders. Mike will provide a student count for us once he obtains the information.
 - FCPS teacher was selected to complete the Orton-Gillingham training, will be able to train other teachers after completion of a practicum.
- Meet and Greet
 - Joanne sent around a sign up sheet for the event to members. Asked members to help disseminate the information to schools
 - Cheri and Mike met about the structure of the event. Asked for feedback on how the committee envision the night to go. The following feedback was given:
 - Break out by sessions with school staff and ACSD member facilitating. Purpose to talk about 1. system wide and district issue, not school or student specific issues. 2. what is going well and 3. recommendations
 - Sessions will need to be managed well to keep it on track
 - County PTA did something similar and divided my magisterial districts, went well and was managed well
 - Need to have a plan to manage it well if challenges arise, i.e. how to manage personal stories and personal challenges
 - FCCPTA event – great conversation but ran long for larger groups.
 - Goal of the meet and greet – is it to introduce new people to the ACSD and learn about resources available in Fairfax County?
 - Opportunity to distribute a survey for parents to incorporate feedback anonymously
 - Need clarity on the goal of the meet and greet
 - Possibly have an opportunity for written responses to be collected in addition to verbal responses
 - Divide up by topics (i.e. assistive tech, 2E, etc) not by regions for short information sessions that community members can rotate through and at the end have opportunity to share challenges that they're facing
 - Divide up by age (preschool, elem, secondary, highschool)
 - Need to manage community expectations with proper advertising on the structure and purpose of the event.
 - Need an opportunity for community feedback of some sort
 - Large flip charts with thematic questions for groups to answer

- Many of these parents attended the SPED conference and may have been through similar sessions.
- Give a set of boundaries for what will be talked about, give colored index cards for opportunities (i.e areas of unmet needs, transition options, etc) when they come in to let them choose what they want to hear when they come in.
- Point is to use this as a way for the community to interact with ACSD. Presentation on who ACSD is and what we do. Needs to be some way that they interact with us as well and get them comfortable to use the ACSD as a resource. And for us to determine unmet needs.
- Need questions to help guide discussion among group
- Idea that we agree on a goal as a committee and then have a small group work on it with the school board.
 - Goal - introduce new people to the ACSD and learn about resources available in Fairfax County. Place to go to share your interests and/or concerns, have your voice heard. a way for the community to interact with us. Also for us to determine unmet needs and challenges
 - Place to foster connections for parents
 - Family outreach sub-committee will work with Mike Bloom on this.

Review of the Annual Report:

- Committee reviewed the draft of the annual report and made revisions
- Michael Beattie made the following motions asking for 3 additional recommendations be included as part of the Transition Subcommittee Report
 - First motion was to include the recommendation that ‘FCPS should seek funding to convert unpaid positions in the STEP program into paid apprenticeships. Students who successfully complete training and a trial period deserve to be paid” Joanne Walton Seconded the motion, discussion ensued
 - Clarification was made that the position in the step program are paid by the businesses them sleeve, not the schools and not all of them are paid.
 - Judy called the question, Joanne Seconded. Vote ensued 9 in favor, 10 opposed, 4 obtained. and motion failed
 - Second Motion was to include the recommendation that ‘FCPS should create an internship program specifically for FCPS students aged 18-22 who formally had an IEP. Funding could be abstained through federal work study and Department of Aging and Rehabilitation Services. Rather than re-inventing the wheel, FCPS could model its program on the Fairfax County Government’s John Hudson paid internship program”
 - Joanne Walton seconded the motion, discussion ensued.
 - Vote ensued 15 in favor, 2 opposed, 6 abstained. Motion carried.
 - Third motion was to include the recommendation that “FCPS should create a residential summer camp for teaching independent living skills to FCPS students and recent graduates with disabilities” Joanne Accepted
 - Judy made friendly amendment to remove “recent graduate” and just keep it to FCPS students, friendly amendment was accepted.
 - Discussion ensued. Vote ensued 5 in favor, 7 opposed, 10 abstained, motion failed
- Motion made by Cheri to include an additional recommendation in the Transition Subcommittee Report “work with school counselors and ETRs to create a plan for parents/guardians to have individual meetings regarding options for students with learning differences”
 - Judy Seconded the motion. Discussion ensued.
 - Vote Followed, motion passed
- Judy moved to approve the report, Michael Beattie seconded the motion, vote followed motion passed unanimously
- Judy moved that there be a writing committee next year made up from a chair or member from each sub committee and they have the committee report be sent out a week before for comments to be sent directly to the chairs in writing prior to the meeting
 - Discussion ensued. Roberts Rules indicate that the report needs to go out to the full committee
 - Connie called the vote. Vote followed 2 in favor, 6 opposed, motion failed.

Bylaws Revision

- Bylaw changes were presented and need to be voted on the following month.
- Move 2.2.3 #7 to the vice chair
- Move 2.2.4 #2, 3 and 4 to FCPS staff or vice chair
- Move 2.2.4 # 6 to be discussed at a later time once social media abilities have been identified.
- 2.2.1 #6, in the e.g. section, change Human Relations Advisory Committee to Human Resources Advisory Committee and add Family Life Education Committee
- 4.2.8 remove #1 and #2
- Remove 6.2.1

New Business

- Tomorrow night at the school board meeting they are going to vote on funding for a special education Ombudsman position
 - Concern raised over the position being a band aid to a problem that could be fixed by committing the money to fidelity and training at the source.
- June 12th conflict with I'm Determined conference, so some members may be missing
- Bullied Broken Redeemed, is a book written by a now 15 year old student that was pulled out of FCPS school from being bullied.
- Paul Cooughlin, a nationally recognized speaker author and anti-bullying warrior is speaking on Wednesday May 29th 7pm at McLean Bible Church.

Nominating Committee Report:

- Nominations for Chair – Cheri Belkowitz
- Nominations for Vice Chair – Connie Lorentzen
- Nominations for Corresponding Secretary – Sandi Dallhoff
- Nominations for Recording Secretary – Ann Marie Ward
- Slate will be voted on at the June Meeting

Meeting adjourned: 10:25pm