

**Fairfax County Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities (ACSD)
Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2018**

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm.

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.)		Harry Henderson (Mason District)		Phara Rodrigue (Region 3)	P
Cheri Belkowitz* (Springfield District)	P	Elizabeth John (Dranesville District)	P	Joanne Walton (Region 4)	
Michelle Cades (SEPTA)	P	Melissa Johnson (Faculty)	P	Ann-Marie Ward (FCCPTA)	P
Brandon Cassady (Hunter Mill District)	P	Paul Keiser (Region 1)	P	Cathy White (Transition Services)	
Sandi Dallhoff (Neigh. & Comm. Services)	P	Andrienne Konstas (League of Women Voters)		Jane Wilson (Braddock District)	P
Susan Edgerton (POAC)	P	Toby Latham (Assistive Technology)	P	Cindy Woodcock (Preschool)	P
Judy Farabaugh (Member-at-Large McElveen)	P	Erin Lauer (Fairfax/Falls Church CSB)	P	Niki Zimmerman (Region 2)	

***Committee Chair(s)**

P = Present

****Vice-Chair**

E = Excused Absence

*****Committee Secretary**

R = Resigned

FCPS Staff Present:

- Teresa Johnson, Department of Special Services – not present
- Irene Meier, Office of Special Education Instruction
- Jane Strong, Office of Procedural Support
- Mary Beth Harrison-Cunningham, Department of Communications and Community Outreach

FCPS School Board Member: Elizabeth Schultz (present)

Agenda & Minutes:

- Judy Farabaugh made **motion to approve September 2018 minutes**. Connie Lorentzen seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous vote.
- Judy Farabaugh made **motion to adopt the agenda as modified. Motion made by Connie Lorentzen to add new business to agenda before elections**. Rachna Heizer seconded that motion. Motion approved unanimously. Agenda was adopted with approved revision.

Public Comment

- Barbara – 13-year-old son at Irving Middle School who was suspended for one day for threatening another student. She is concerned that son is being unfairly punished.

Copy was submitted

- Yvonne – wanted third child to be granted a transfer to Marshall HS to attend along with his siblings that were placed there in the IB program. Was informed that the SPED program was full. She was eventually granted the transfer, but felt a strong lack of support from school on implementing the correct supports for her son. Her family has continued to have an ongoing battle with the school over providing the correct supports for her son. Copy was submitted.
- Dawn – she stated that she never knew about the ACSD until she met Toby at the PRC and she thinks it's great. She suggested at every PRC seminar it would be great to have an announcement about the ACSD, the purpose and how they can support families of students with disabilities. Her daughter goes to Kilmer Middle and she is very pleased with the support her daughter has received from the special education staff there.

Presentation on FCPS Transition Services by Sarah Blake, Janelle Ellis and Trevor Christensen. Jen Glaser Director of Counseling and College and Career Readiness was also present in the audience.

- Staff gave a very thorough presentation on current Transition Services available through FCPS with many supporting facts and figures.
- Mission of Career and Transition Services is to empower a diverse population of students with the opportunities and resources necessary for transition to a variety of postsecondary options.

Special Education and PRC Update

Irene Meier's comments: They will be recruiting SPED teachers at CEC again this year.

Jane Strong's comments: Next month we will get more info on office for procedural support. Two great sessions at PRC on Least Restrictive Environment.

Mary Beth Harrison-Cunningham's comments: Coffee and Convo session on post-secondary options will be held Oct. 11; will be filmed for YouTube channel. Moving Along to Life in the Community next Saturday at Lake Braddock. Two upcoming workshops focused on Transition by VT. Two new video workshops up on YouTube Channel; check them out!

School Board Charge Discussion

Cheri Belkowitz shared some basic ground rules for the committee as well as information on who to email for what in response to questions that have been asked. Expressed concerns over lack of focus on individuals with disabilities with regards to Equity discussion at leadership conference and FCPS mental health and wellness fair sponsored by Ombudsman. Shared law regarding role of local advisory committees and concern over focus of charge coming solely from school board. Shared themes of public comments over last two years, lack of public comment is of concern. Question raised of whether we only focus on the charge given or look at other areas of concern as well.

Cheri shared email from Linda Mason expressing support of charge

Michelle Cades shared thoughts on disconnect with charge and mission of ACSD to support the needs voiced by the public.

Rachna Heizer stated that people don't know ACSD exist, no signage for meetings. We need to advertise that we exist and ensure we're getting the voice of more of the community to best identify needs. Still feels that transition is a need that we should look at.

Connie Lorentzen stated we're the only school board advisory committee directed by law.

Sounds like everyone is saying that we've lost our way over the year with the charge. Committee needs to do what our legal purpose is and what our school board requests.

Jane Wilson stated that the committee needs to feel we are having an impact and outcomes at the end of the year. Even though there are great programs available, there are still opportunities for committee to look for improvement areas.

Toby Latham stated that he visited another county's (Prince William) advisory committee and gave feedback on how that meeting ran. Parents views were expressed through area representatives on the committee.

Laura Allen stated that she is a representative on the WIN, and she expressed views of parents on concerns from 'the other side' (post-graduation); it would be great to look at what we can do before graduation to better support them.

Judy F. asked if we can we ask the school board to give us a different charge? Elizabeth Schultz shared that we can ask the Board to approve an amended charge.

Brandon Cassady expressed concerns over commitment around post-graduation higher education options and having realistic expectations (from students' perspective) so we do not sell them short. How committed is nova to support students with disabilities post-graduation?

Rachna made two motions:

1. Motion that we discuss the charge to see how many sub-committees are needed to address it. Connie seconded the motion. Judy called the question. Question went to vote: twelve in support of calling the question;

2. Motion to establish the following ad hoc committees: follow-up, bylaws; and outreach committee. Jane seconded. Discussion ensued.

Judy: **Motion to postpone the discussion on the formation of subcommittees to the next meeting.** Jeanne seconded the motion.

Rachna: **Motion to have an additional meeting/work session before November meeting to discuss break down of committees and ad/hoc.** Sandi seconded the motion. Motion carried. Decided that November meeting would start at 6pm to address this motion.

Elections: Election committee shared nominations:

- Nomination for co-secretaries: Sandi and Toby were nominated for co-secretaries. Connie Lorentzen seconded the motion. Vote carried for Sandi and Toby to be co-secretaries.
- Nomination for Co-chairs are: Connie Lorentzen, Rachna Heizer, and Cheri Belkowitz.
 - Vote called on whether to have two co-chairs or one chair; vote for two co-chairs carried.
 - Vote for co-chairs ensued, Cheri and Connie were elected as co-chairs.
 - **Motion made by Jane to add a vice-chair.** Rachna seconded the motion.
 - Jeanne made a **substitute motion to reconsider co-chairs as chair and vice chair.** Melissa seconded. Judy called the question, vote to question carried. Vote carried.
 - Vote made to distinguish chair vs. vice chair. Cheri will be Chair and Connie vice chair

News to share:

FCCPTA family engagement conference is October 20, 2018.

Adjournment: 10 p.m.

Next ACSD Meeting: November 14, 2018 at 6 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Sandi Dallhoff