

**Fairfax County Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities (ACSD)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 12, 2018**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

**Members Present:**

Member Name		Member Name		Member Name	
Meghan Gray (Lee District)	P	Melissa Johnson (Faculty)	P	Andrienne Konstas (League of Women Voters)	--
Harry Henderson (Mason District)	--	Toby Latham (Assistive Technology)	P	Ann-Marie Ward (FCCPTA)	P
Elizabeth John (Dranesville District)	P	Cindy Woodcock (Preschool)	P	Jeanne Frost (Fairfax County Health Dept.)	P
Connie Lorentzen (Mount Vernon District)	P	Susan Edgerton (Region 2)	P	Erin Lauer (Fairfax/Falls Church Comm. Services Bd.)	P
Cheri Belkowitz* (Springfield District)	P	Rachna Heizer (Region 4)	P	Sandi Dallhoff (Dept. of Neighborhood & Comm. Services)	--
Judy Farabaugh (Member-at-Large McElveen)	P	Linda Mason (Higher Education)	P	Michael Beattie (Disability Services Bd.)	P
Joe Alston (Member-at-Large Moon)	P			Katy Maleski (City of Fairfax School Bd.)	--

\*Committee Chair(s)

**P = Present**

\*\*Vice-Chair

**E = Excused Absence**

\*\*\*Committee Secretary

**R = Resigned**

**FCPS Staff Present:**

- Teresa Johnson, Department of Special Services
- Irene Meier, Office of Special Education Instruction
- Jane Strong, Office of Procedural Support
- Mary Beth Harrison-Cunningham, Department of Communications and Community Outreach
- Lea Skurpski, Office of Data Management, Student Services and Strategic Planning

**FCPS School Board Member:** Elizabeth Schultz (present)

**Agenda & Minutes:**

- Connie Lorentzen moved to modify the September agenda to discuss charge and subcommittees after public comment. Judy Farabaugh seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous vote.
- Judy Farabaugh moved to approve May 9, 2018 minutes. Brandon Cassady seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous vote.
- Judy Farabaugh moved to adopt the agenda as modified. Brandon Cassady seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

## **Announcements**

- School Board Member Schultz was introduced as the 2018-2019 committee liaison
- Committee members and school administrators were introduced.

## **Public Comment**

- Diane Cooper-Gould, President FCPS SEPTA. Shared SEPTA mission and thanked committee members for their service. Thanked administrators for updating the ACSD website. Announced that SEPTA membership drive will start at the end of the month and end in October. Requested timely notice of committee meeting cancellations. Employees have expressed concern about speaking up about their job experiences. Laura Allen, through WIN, working on issues pertaining to post-secondary opportunities. Assistive technology parent raised issue with county-wide shutdown of Pinterest and BoardMaker (programs used by special ed students).
- Cecily O'Flarety (ph.), with son K., had a positive experience in FCPS until "fifth grade collapse." Thereafter, in the middle of sixth grade son developed "double deficit" requiring reading intervention. Team chose program to address deficit but personnel issues prevented implementation. Principal accused parents of suing the school, though no such intention had been expressed. Family moved out of district, to family's home of origin, where K made progress, closing his deficits. K returned to FCPS for 8th grade. Experienced issues with obtaining IEP addendum, despite data from previous school and private service providers. Better collaboration would better suit students (copy of remarks will be forwarded to the committee).
- Samantha Taliaferro, 7th grade student at Rolling Valley Elementary School shared remarks concerning classroom assignments of students with disabilities (copy of remarks submitted for the record).
- Norm Hall expressed appreciation of Superintendent's practice of posting school board briefings online. Also commented on the impact of classroom design and staff transfer on student performance, noting that staffing adjustments that peak around November and might not capture changes necessary for student success later in the year (copy of remarks will be forwarded to the committee).

Committee participated in overview of FCPS/DSS/Relevant Statutes via Kahoot! quiz

Committee reviewed meeting ground rules, Article 4 of the committee's bylaws, and FOIA.

Committee reviewed the school board's charge: Explore FCPS practices regarding transition to post-secondary opportunities for students with disabilities. Make recommendations designed to improve division wide practices to improve post-secondary outcomes for students who exit or graduate from FCPS services.

## **Special Education and PRC Update**

Teresa Johnson's comments: Mental health and wellness conference is scheduled and will include a teen summit, allowing student population to attend and participate. Conference will be at Lake Braddock SS on April 6. 2E handbook almost ready for viewing.

Irene Meier's comments: New dyslexia specialist hired. October is dyslexia awareness month; school board will acknowledge at upcoming meeting. Over 250 teachers will be trained at new beginnings program.

Jane Strong's comments: Changes to IEP forms. Purpose was to facilitate conversation around IEP table regarding inclusive opportunities. About 2,000 special education teachers were trained in August. Parent training upcoming through parent resource center.

Mary Beth Harrison-Cunningham's comments: Two opportunities for IEP training for parents in September. PRC events for September and October posted. Committee members were encouraged to sign up for News You Choose to receive emails from PRC. Forty workshops scheduled this year (e.g., Google Classroom). March 2019 series of four workshops for technology month. With respect to the school board's charge, the PRC is hosting two workshops on transition IEPs (November and December). Selective mutism and school refusal workshops scheduled. Emergency management disabilities liaison will discuss home emergency plans. Working to schedule quarterly SibShops.

### **Nominations**

- Co-chairs Connie Lorentzen, Rachna Heizer, and Cheri Belkowitz.
- Secretary Toby Latham.

### **New Business**

Rachna Heizer asked whether discussion regarding proposed subcommittees was open. Heizer moved to open discussion. Motion seconded by Motion to discuss options (see below) made by RSH and seconded by Connie Lorentzen. Committee members discussed how the proposed subcommittees were formulated. Lorentzen moved to end discussion. Motion seconded by Judy Farabaugh. Motion passed unanimously.

Heizer moved to discuss at the next ACSD meeting how subcommittees should be divided, with time limited to 10 minutes. Motion seconded by Brandon Cassady. Motion passed with one member abstaining.

Toby Latham moved to establish unmet needs subcommittee. Motion seconded by Lorentzen. Farabaugh clarified that motion was not necessary; ad hoc and subcommittee formation is at the discretion of the chair and committee. Chair polled members to determine interest in creating unmet needs ad hoc committee. Majority of committee expressed interest in such action.

**Adjournment:** 8:57 p.m.

**Next ACSD Meeting:** October 10, 2018 at 7 p.m.

**Minutes submitted by:** Toby Latham