

Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities (ACSD) - Fairfax County Public Schools
Wednesday, January 10 2024, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Summary of Business Conducted:

- A discussion was held on the Student Rights & Responsibilities (SR&R) Document with guest Shannon Anderson, Coordinator, Equity and Student Conduct
 - The ACSD heard updates from the Department of Special Services (DSS) on Extended School Year (ESY) services for eligible students with disabilities, and updates on creating a fire safety and evacuation plan for students with disabilities who aren't on the first floor of their building and would need special procedures for their safe evacuation.
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Executive Committee:

Chair, Elizabeth Zielinski

Vice Chair, Holly Stearns

Secretaries, Ally Baldassari (Recording) and Brandis Ruise (Corresponding)

Member Attendance: A quorum of voting members was confirmed by Recording Secretary Ally Baldassari with 25/32 voting members in attendance. There are 35 positions on the ACSD; 3 currently vacant. The full record of attendance, members, and vacancies is appended.

Liaisons/FCPS Guests:

Mike Bloom, Director, Office of Special Education Instruction and FCPS Liaison to the ACSD

Terri Edmunds-Heard, Assistant Superintendent, Department of Special Services

Rachna Seizmore-Heizer, School Board Liaison, School Board Member for Braddock District

Kathy Murphy, Assistant Ombuds for Special Education

Public: Two members of the public attended.

Business Meeting Agenda 1/10/2024:

1. Call to Order, Elizabeth Zielinski, Chair
2. Approval of Minutes and Adoption of Agenda, Ms. Zielinski
3. Public Comment, Holly Stearns, Vice Chair
 - a. Kelly Yacoubi: FCPS has many civil rights violations. One is in the testing for auditory processing disorder. FCPS is not utilizing audiologists for the testing. It is a comorbidity for 70% of students with dyslexia. She says there is a box to check whether the student has a disorder, and it is checked without appropriate testing or the use of an audiologist.
 - b. Callie Oettinger: Reported she met with Dr. Michelle Reid about discovered FERPA violations related to Ms. Oettinger's FOIA request. Ms. Oettinger read from the transcript of their conversation. Ms. Oettinger feels misunderstood in how she obtained

the information that represented a FERPA violation. Ms. Oettinger says she obtained the information in a FOIA request intended to show that she was given misinformation regarding her own student. Ms. Oettinger would love the chance to answer questions about the situation.

4. Chair's Message, Ms. Zielinski
 - a. Upcoming meetings will include reviewing FCPS's annual plan and formulating the FCPS final report. These meetings may be long and likely won't include guest presentations.
 - b. Data requests are in for all the subcommittees, thanks for those. All requests at first glance appear reasonable and doable.
5. Subcommittee Updates
 - a. Policy and Regulations: They reviewed their subcommittee's submission for last year's annual report and are following up unresolved issues i.e. teacher retention/recruitment.
 - b. Student Achievement & Outcomes: Has a new member. They discussed potential speakers for their subcommittee and for the committee of the whole, especially administrators to understand their side of the "suspension question".
 - c. Family Engagement and Community Outreach: Explored public access to FCPS resources and how they can expand equitable access. They feel there should be a standard process for sharing FCPS resources as part of the special ed process.
 - d. School Board Charge: Discussed this evening the takeaways from their last meeting with guest David Edyburn, and how he furthered their understanding of their work. They also discussed possible future speakers.
6. School Board Liaison Update, Rachna Sizemore-Heizer, Member-at-Large
 - a. We have a new school board including 8 new members, 6 of which are fully new (two had returned from previous years). Ms. Sizemore-Heizer encourages ACSD members to introduce themselves to the new board and share their views.
 - b. The budget process starts with adopting a resolution on budgetary priorities. Please reach out to your school board member with your thoughts on this. We vote on the budget twice: The advertised budget first. Then we send it to the local Board of Supervisors. They pass their budget and then we know how much they have funded. Based on the actual budget granted, the school board will pass the actual budget. The loss of ESSER will create hardship. Among other things, we lose extended hour contracts for special education teachers (they will no longer be paid based on an 8-hour day).
 - c. Let us know if there are still issues with compensatory education reimbursements. She hasn't heard as many concerns. Dr. Edmunds-Heard shared it is still a work in progress getting the reimbursements, but something her team works on every day.
 - d. Don't presume new board members know about the work that ACSD does... Reach out and let them know.

7. [Family Resource Center](#) News, Mike Bloom on behalf of Mary Beth Harrison-Cunningham, Manager of the FRC
 - a. Two webinars for January; one still upcoming on Transition to Middle and High School for Twice-Exceptional (2e) Students.
 - b. February will have five webinars including a Meet the Author Series on Mind in the Making, a webinar on the FBA/BIP process, and a Behavior Solutions Series,
 - c. See the [FRC Youtube Channel](#) to find all past webinars.
 - d. Registration is open for the [I'm Determined Youth and Family Summit](#)
8. Attendance Report, Ally Baldassari, Recording Secretary - as above
9. Student Rights & Responsibilities (SR&R) Document Discussion, Shannon Anderson, Coordinator, Equity and Student Conduct
 - a. [Note first from our Chair] In the past the SR&R has belonged to DSS, and something the ACSD always reviewed. Now that the SR&R is under a different office, the Office of Equity and Inclusion, the review process may look different. Currently there are no proposed changes. They desire feedback on which to base their recommended changes.
 - b. [Another note from the Chair] When there are proposed changes, the Policy and Regulations subcommittee will review them first. Then they will present their recommendations on the SR&R to the Committee of the Whole to vote on.
 - c. For the 2023-2024 school year, these changes were added:
 - i. A vision and belief statement to the document. It includes an inclusive school environment, safety, belonging, supportive relationships.
 - ii. Chronic absence- Added the definition of missing 18 or more school days per year, warning signs of absences, and VDOE Standards of Education.
 - iii. The dress code was completely rewritten - See FCPS Reg. 2613 for details.
 - iv. Cell phones: Some clarifications regarding related devices, and clarifying expectations that differ for ES and MS/HS levels.
 - v. Redefined Discriminatory Harassment Definition.
 - vi. Added the Administrative Review process. This is an Informal, voluntary process to resolve special education and Section 504 disputes.
 - vii. School Safe communities - Clarification of bystander expectations should harmful/unsafe behaviors be witnessed
 - viii. Substance misuse responses now include education and, when parent consent is given, assessments for substance abuse support needs
 - ix. Consent for Threat Assessment notification - if those conducting a Threat Assessment desire a written statement from a student with an intellectual or developmental disability, there must be documentation of seeking written consent for the written statement. The student shall be allowed a supportive

- presence (parent, guardian). If consent is not obtained, they will make a decision on the threat assessment without a statement from the student.
- x. Shared a feedback form that had been used with other groups. Ms. Anderson described how we can submit feedback as individuals using the Google form.
 - xi. Ms. Sizemore-Heizer is interested in feedback on the parent/guardian consent for a student's written statement during a Threat Assessment.
 - xii. Jay Berkenbilt: Are we able to comment parts of the SR&R beyond the new changes? A: Yes, other parts may be referenced by copying and pasting the desired section of the SR&R into the form, and giving your response to it.
 - xiii. We agreed that ACSD members would use the feedback form to submit feedback as individuals directly to Ms. Anderson's office. Later, the ACSD will review the SR&R proposed changes and vote on recommendations to go to the school board prior to their vote on the new proposed SR&R.
 - xiv. Ms. Campbell suggested submitting our approved ACSD recommendations on the SR&R from past years to Ms. Anderson, as many haven't been incorporated. Chair Zielinski and Ally Baldassari stated approval of this idea.

10. Department of Special Services (DSS) Updates, Dr. Terri Edmunds-Heard, Mike Bloom

- a. Extended School Year (ESY) update:
 - i. Dates are July 1 - 26; July 4, 5 are student holidays. (A four-day holiday weekend.) The total time the students are in session is the same as previous years.
 - ii. Sites aren't yet finalized for ESY. The public website will list the sites once known. Compensatory education will again be provided at ESY sites.
 - iii. Timeline for hiring: Beginning the process of hiring in February and compensation will be at the same rate (\$68/hr for teachers, \$50 for homebound/consultative teachers, and \$27.50 for paraprofessionals).
- b. Updates on Fire and Safety evacuation:
 - i. On January 2nd Dr. Reid, DSS, and Amanda Campbell as a community representative met with Fire and Rescue.
 - ii. Currently students on the second floor go to a FESA room (fire evacuation staging area). There is a flag for Fire and Safety to rescue the students with disabilities (SWD) that were taken there.
 - iii. Drills don't include having fire and safety come to the room for evacuation, and families may not have been told of the FESA room procedures.
 - iv. They discussed other options for schools with SWD on the second floor, i.e. evacuation chairs. Dr. Reid had experience with these at her previous school district. They must look at the training necessary if chairs are purchased. They must also look into discussing FESA fire and safety evacuation at IEP meetings.

- v. There are many additional safety details to be discussed involving when students are in different locations or if substitutes are there during an emergency.

Carolyn Haydon: Who is leading the ESY planning, as Katie Alderidge, the ESY manager last year, is now a principal? A: There are two experienced members from the ESY team last year who have stepped in as acting managers.

Rachel Charlton: How will they plan for students with temporary loss of mobility, handled by a 504 plan? A: Thanks for bringing this up; this is a detail they must address also.

Keena McAvoy: Suggests PT and OTs should be consulted on appropriate evacuation and equipment for their students.. A: Dr. Edmunds-Heard thanked her for the comment.

Amanda Campbell: (1) Suggests that CIP planning discussion include amending buildings and building for safe evacuation. (2) Can the families get ESY site information as early as possible, because the Fairfax County programs open their application January 23rd, and those fill quickly.

Ms. Sizemore-Heizer: Noted the importance of the CIP process and how there have been significant funding shortfalls. Currently at q42year renovations, though recommended is q25 years, so there will be a lot of competing priorities for the limited resources.

11. Old Business & New Business, Ms. Zielinski - None this month

12. Member Time, Ms. Stearns

- a. Ally Baldassari: (1) SEPTA's general membership meeting Tuesday, January 16th 7PM is "Community Connections" with Asst. Superintendent of the Dept. of Special Services Dr. Terri Edmunds-Heard and her staff. (2) The Spring Mini-Grants applications are due February 15th. All FCPS staff members who are also SEPTA members are welcome to apply for these grants, up to \$500, to benefit Fairfax County students with disabilities.
- b. Amanda Campbell wants to thank the school board for the CIP discussion and including in the discussion "split-feeder" schools in the Springfield district.
- c. POAC-NoVA will have a meeting featuring Carolyn Haydon, Susan Edgerton, and a former Davis Center teacher. The meeting is Feb 10th, 10 AM at the Fairfax Government Center.

13. Adjournment - 8:18PM

A	Name	Organization/Representing	nta	13.2	11.208	1.13.2	1.10.24	21.213.217.215.205.2
Ahsen	Cakez	Sully District-Stella Pekarsky	NY	NY		X	X	E
Ally	Baldassari	SEPTA		E	X	X	X	X
Amanda	Campbell	Sprinfeld District-Laura Jane Cohen		X	X	X	X	X
Amanda	Whittman	Dranesville District-Elain Tholen	X	X	X	X		X
Anne	Hobbs	PoAC-NoVA		X	X	X	E	X
Brandis	Ruise	Fairfax Area Disabilities Services Board	NY	NY		X	X	X
Brandon	Cassady	Career and Transition Services	NY	NY		X	X	X
Carolyn	Haydon	Braddock District-Megan McLaughlin	X	X	X	X	X	X
Colleen	Jones	Fairfax County Council of PTA	NY	NY		X	X	E
Daniel	Cronnell	Fairfax/Falls Church Community Services Board		X	X	X	E	E
Darcy	Acquavella	City of Fairfax School Board		X	X	X	X	X
David	Bean	Providence District-Karl Frisch	X	X	X	E	X	X
Delaney	Brooks	Student Representative	NY	NY	NY		X	X
Elizabeth	Zielinski	Assistive Technology		X	X	X	X	X
Harry	Henderson	Mason District-Ricardy Anderson		X	E	X	X	E
Holly	Stearns	Region 2-Fabio Zuluaga-Asst. Superintendent		X	X	X	X	X
Hope	Luong	Fairfax County Health Department	NY	NY		X	X	X
Jay	Berkenbilt	Region 4-Penny Gros-Assistant Superintendent	X	X	X	X	X	X
Jennifer	Skaggs	Fairfax County Federation of Citizens	NY	NY		X	X	X
Joanne	Walton	FCPS Teacher	NY	NY		X	E	X
Keena	McAvoy	Member at Large-Karen Keys Gamara	NY	NY	NY		X	X
Krista	Sharp	Region 6-Michelle Boyd-Assistant Superintendent	NY	NY	NY	NY	NY	NY
Kristine	Bennett	Region 3-Grace Taylor-Assistant Superintendent	NY	NY	NY		X	X
Lauren	McCaughey	Hunter Mill District-Melanie Meren		X	X	E	X	E
Nita	Payton	Region 5-Rebeca Baenig-Asst. Superintendent		E	X	X	X	X
Nora	Rahman	Member at Large-Abrar Omeish			X	X	E	X
Rachel	Charlton	Early Childhood Education (Preschool)		E	X	X	X	X
Rajiv	Satsangi	Higher Education	X	X	E	X	X	X
Rebekah	Stone	FC Dept. of Neighborhood and Community Service	NY	NY	NY	NY	X	E
Shannon	Duncan	Decoding Dyslexia Virginia		X	X	X	E	E
Stephanie	Smith	Franconia District-Tamara Derenak Kaufax		E	X	X	X	X
Susan	Edgerton	Member at Large-Rachna Sizemore-Heizer		X	X	X	X	X
Vacant		League of Women Voters, Fairfax Area						
Vacant		Mount Vernon District-Karen Corbett Sanders						
Vacant		Region 1-Douglas Tyson-Assistant Superintendent						
X	Present							
E	Excused absence							
NYA	Not yet appointed; hadn't been appointed to this position at the time of the meeting							
*Please note that attendance was not required of returning members at the 9-13-2023 Orientation.								

Family Resource Center Update – ACSD – January 10, 2024

- FRC Hours – Monday-Friday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
 - Consultations – please call or email for an appointment but walk-ins are accepted
 - 703-204-3941
 - frc@fcps.edu
 - The library is open for walk-ins and check-outs

FRC website: <https://www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center>

You Tube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@FCPSFamilyResourceCenter>

Digital Resources: <https://www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/family-resource-center/fcps-resources-topics-parents-and-educators>


Updates:


- January Webinars/Events:
 - **Raising a Kid Who Can** – 1/5/24 – 10 am
 - **Transition to Middle and High School for Twice Exceptional (2e) Students**- 1/12/24- 10 am
 - **Sibshops** – 1/20/24 – Providence Community Center
- February Webinars/Workshops
 - **Meet the Author Series: Mind in the Making with Ellen Galinsky** – 2/2/24 – 10 am
 - **Youth Mental Health First Aid (in-person workshop)** – 2/9/24 – 8:30 am-3:30 pm
 - **Behavior Solutions Series: Proactive Strategies for Elementary Families** – 2/16/24 – 10 am
 - **How to Handle Disappointing Grades: Ways to Uncover the Reasons Behind Your Child's School Performance and How to Help w/Ann Dolin** – 2/23/24 – 10 am
 - **FBA/BIP** – 2/29/24 – 6:30 pm

New Webinars on the FRC YouTube Channel:


- ✓ **Meet the Author Series: Raising a Kid Who Can** - <https://youtu.be/XHlet9sjnVg>
- ✓ **Twice Exceptional (2e) Learners playlist** - https://youtu.be/1MIUo_xdb6Y and <https://youtu.be/QE-SFE0p7NY>
- ✓ **Using the Data Collection Tool to Inform LRE** - <https://youtu.be/KpNNdEGH764>


I'm Determined Summit: <https://www.imdetermined.org/event/2024-youth-family-summit/>

 **Date: June 11-13, 2024** (Tuesday evening – Thursday afternoon)

 **Location:** Festival Conference & Student Center @ James Madison University

 **Event type:** Face-to-face event

 **Attendees:** We will accept up to 50 youth residing in Virginia

 **Ages:** 14-18-year-olds