Arlington Special Education Advisory Committee
MINUTES
April 26, 2022
Via Zoom

Recording of Meeting: (See Kathleen or Kelly for recording link from APS account)
See Appendix for the Zoom Meeting Chat

ASEAC Members:

First Name	Last Name	Present?	Vote on March 2022 meeting minutes
Nicholas	Walkosak	N	absent
David	Rosenblatt	Y	Y
Keith	Chanon	Y	Y
Paul	Timm	Y	Y
Nadia	Facey	Y	Y
Margaret	Dunn	N	absent
Michelle	Best	Y	Y
Kristin	Gillig	N	absent
Kurt	Schuler	Y	Y
Minerva	Trudo	Y	Y
Matt	Leland	N	absent
Symone	Walker	N	absent
Kathryn	Pericak	Y	Y
Ellen	Fitzenrider	Y	Y
Eva	Kerns-Varner	Y	Y
Rebecca	Hunter	Y	Y
Jennifer	Wheelock	Y	Y
David	Siu	Y	Y

Motion to approve minutes: Paul, Second: Jennifer
Minutes Approved

- PTA Meetings:
  - Have communicated to schools the challenge that some parents are facing. Difficult to attend in-person meetings for many parents. Not aware of any public announcement. Recommend that parents talk to schools and their principles to address any problems.
- Mask Accommodations:
  - Shared this with the Superintendent and his cabinet members. Everyone is well aware about concerns regarding vulnerable individuals. We hope that awareness has helped.

Annual Plan

- Required by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)
- Provide a detailed description of how federal entitlement funds are spent (IDEA Grant 611 for K-12+ and 619 for early childhood/preschool services)

Components of the Plan

- Policy Statement
- Statement of Assurances
- Report on Implementation of 2020-21 School Year
- Excess Cost & Maintenance of Effort (MOE)
- Interagency Agreement with Correctional Facilities
- Application for IDEA Section 611 and 619

Funding Sources:

- FY 23 Proposed Operating Budget TBD. Should know in a couple of weeks.
- FY 23 Estimated IDEA State Funds $5,665,198 million
- FY 23 Estimated Preschool funds $116,750.00

FY 22 Proposed Budget: Mandated Services:

IDEA Part B Proposed Budgets

- Breakdown by percent
  - 99% for [illegible] 611 on [illegible]

David: Wants to emphasize that the language access challenges being faced by the ASHPA community is significant and has not been resolved and additional efforts are needed to address this.

Keith: Curious about the high turnover among teachers and staff. Have heard about cases where assistants working with individual students are leaving mid-year. That can have many implications for students. Does APS have any plans to address staff turnover in the next year? Any incentives, or strategies to recruit and keep good teachers?

Kelly: We share your sentiment. It has been a real challenge this year. We are hoping that the new compensation for our staff will incentivize more to stay longer term. Looking for additional training to support our SPED assistants so they can be successful in their role. We are doing another job fair this Saturday.
Heather: we are doing extensive recruiting, on evenings and weekends. For summer school and ESY we have some incentives. We are doing everything we can to compete against other school divisions.

Rebecca Hunter: Wondering about summer school and planning to avoid staffing shortages. Hopes that every student who needs it can access it.

Janna: It would be great to touch base at one of the next few ASEAC meetings about APSîs plans for the students who requested medical exemptions to stay virtual next year during the VLP pause - ideally covering staffing, program decision-making, and how APS will ensure FAPE and meet individualized student needs. Thanks!

David: Important issues to raise and we will discuss with OSE and how we can bring in APS staff for substantive updates.

David: Welcomed Mary Kadera - ASEAC School Board Liaison and offered her an opportunity to comment.
Mary Kadera: Happy to be with ASEAC and is taking notes to relay information back to her School Board colleagues and invites additional comments and concerns, for example, masking accommodations. Feel free to send Mary direct email messages.

Upcoming Events:

March 30 - May 4:	ADHD Parent Series
April 28:	NOVA Vision
May 5:	Lunch & Learn - Anxiety

- Approval of March Meeting Minutes

Policy Subcommittee Update - Kathy Pericak (8:02)

- Public comments due by May 15th on 4 different policies.
    1. Policy M-16 Memorandums of Understanding
    2. Policy I-11.2 Homework
    3. Policy I-7.2.3.34 Communication -- Reporting Student Progress and Grades
    4. Policy C-30 Superintendent Advisory Committees

PIP Workgroup:
David: ASEAC ensured that its statutory role was acknowledged in the Policy C-30. ASEAC will now be included in the Advisory Committee policy as its own advisory committee, not only as a Subcommittee of ACTL. This should ensure ASEAC is consulted regularly on a sustained basis. There will now be a PIP that replaces the ASEAC Bylaws and describes how ASEAC will function in the future.

Request for members to join Kathy and David in a PIP Workgroup to make recommendations on how ASEAC should operate. This needs to happen in the next week. Need to fill out an APS template by May 6th. No one volunteered in the meeting. Please contact David or Kathy if interested in volunteering (pericak.kathy@gmail.com)

Other ASEAC Activities:

1. Budget Letter - David will send this out to members for feedback.
2. Shriver accessibility issues - Rebecca Hunter is monitoring the discussions with the Planning Commission and will attend the Transportation Committee this Thursday which will address parking. Recommends that individuals attend this meeting and submit comments. ASEAC could consider submitting formal comments. Can also provide input to the County Board. Chuck Chambers, staff member at the facilities level is a good contact.
    a. Mary Kadera: This has not been discussed by the School Board and feels that her colleagues would support accessibility as originally envisioned.
    b. Rebecca will attend Thursday's meeting at 6:30. Kurt Schuler is also available to make a public comment.
    c. David supports ASEAC sending a letter to the proper committee. No concerns

(8:32pm) Move to adjourn: Paul Second: Kathy

Remaining Meeting dates reminder for 2021-2022:

- May 24, 2022
- June 14, 2022

APS Strategic Plan - six year plan with initiatives, desired outcomes, and strategies. Encourage all to review, especially in relation to ASEAC issues.
https://www.apsva.us/strategic-plan/

Resources for Members:
A Guide for Local Special Education Advisory Committees in Virginia (VDOE):
http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/committees_advisory/special_ed/local_sped_advisory_committees/products/guide/guide.pdf
Virginia Department of Education Website for Local Special Education Advisory Committees:
http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/committees_advisory/special_ed/local_sped_advisory_committees/index.shtml
Arlington School Board Policy B-3.6.31 - Advisory Council on Instruction:
https://www.apsva.us/school-board-policies/
Virginia Department of Education Parentûs Guide to Special Education
http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/committees_advisory/special_ed/local_sped_advisory_committees/index.shtml

Appendix I
Zoom Meeting Chat