

Arlington Special Education Advisory Committee

MINUTES

February 28, 2023

All Virtual - on Zoom

See Appendix for the Zoom chat.

ASEAC Members:

First Name	Last Name	Present?/ALL virtual meeting	Vote on January 2023 meeting minutes
Claudia	Ramirez Cuellar	Yes	Yes
David	Rosenblatt	Yes	Yes
David	S		

Motion made to approve minutes by Kurt Schuler, seconded by Jennifer Wheelock:
Approved

Non-Member Attendees

Virtual Kathleen Donovan, Kelly Krug, Heather Rothenbuescher, Gina DeSalvo
Emma Parral Sanchez, Julio (Interpreter), A Stewart, Ayelech, Reade
Bush, Cecelia Kline, Kathleen Clark, Susan Kerin, Griselda, Jen Craine,
Heather Desplechin

Agenda

7:00 - 7:20 pm Welcome and Public Comments
7:20 - 7:40 pm OSE Updates and Response to January Public Comments
7:40 - 8:30 pm Discussion about the APS 2024 draft Budget
8:30 - 8:40 pm ASEAC's End of the Year Report - Potential Topics
8:40 - 8:50 pm Parent Resource Center updates
8:50 - 9:00 pm ASEAC Business, Updates

Meeting opened at: 7:05 PM

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when the topic at hand had no social context, such as a math or science observation.

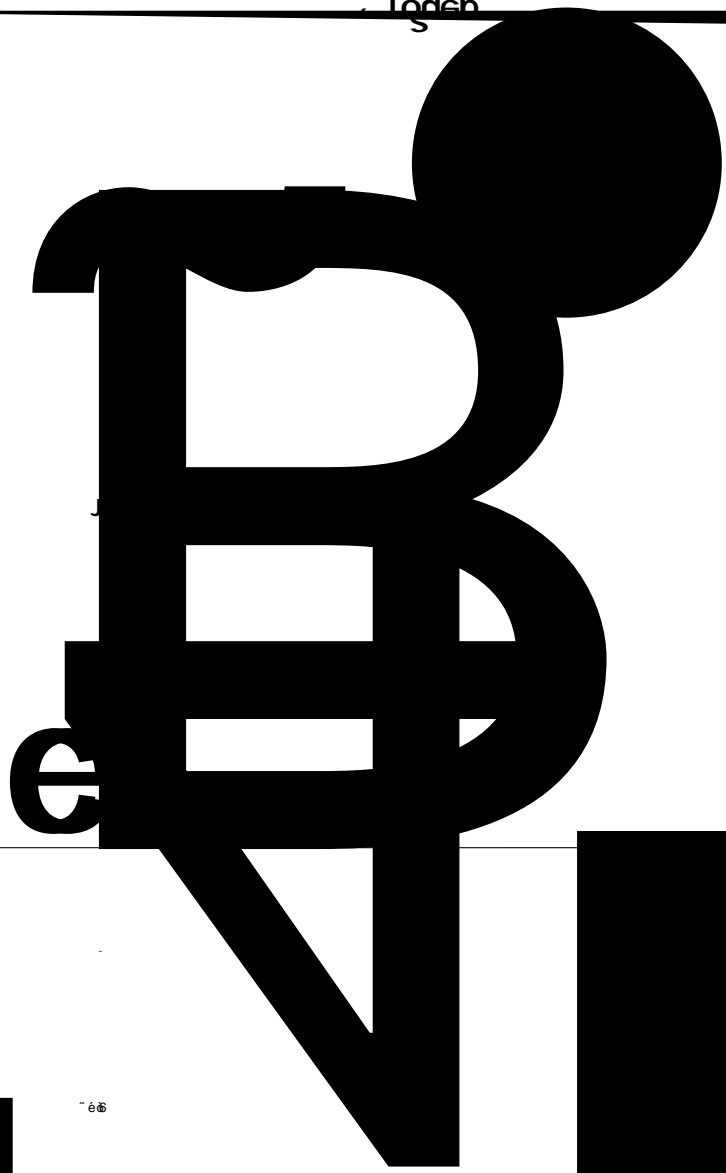
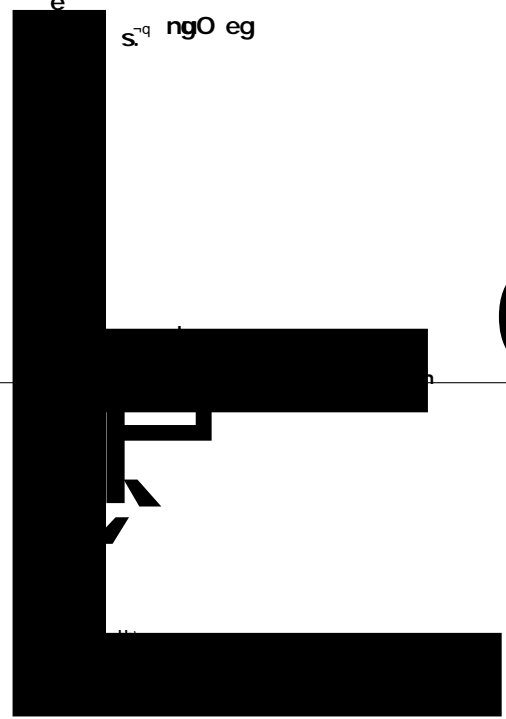
During this time, _____ and others began circulating rumors that Joseph referred to members of minority groups with pejoratives. In speaking with a parent from Joseph's school, I learned from her son that "everyone knows Joseph says these things."

I have never heard any one of these words come out of Joseph's mouth. What's more, when asked, Joseph doesn't even know what one of the words means. I asked the school to investigate if any adult had ever heard Joseph use such language. I was informed in June 2022 that _____ Joseph

[Handwritten scribble]

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While Joseph was in his PE class, several students gathered around _____ then engaged in online bullying of Joseph's mother in the Arlington Education Matters Facebook group. I have copies of what was said. No child could withstand this type of bullying. We have screenshots and would like to share them. We held back initially but, at this point trying to protect students who have harmed Joseph is resulting in further harm to Joseph.

Upon reading the text of what was said by _____, Joseph's psychiatrist insisted that I remove him from school immediately. Joseph did not return to school to finish his freshman year.

INTERIM
IA



Returning to school in the fall of 2022, Joseph has repeatedly been

know this information.

Because the lies regarding Joseph and his alleged use of pejoratives were never addressed with the student body, the students had no trouble believing that this was Joseph speaking through the fake account. As such, nearly all of the students believe Joseph is someone who actively spews hate. From what we've heard, many of the students now wish harm on Joseph.

We were informed of this incident by the parent of one of Joseph's longtime peers. If not for this parent, Joseph would have walked into school on Monday unaware and with nearly the entire student body actively hating him. We made the decision over the weekend to keep Joseph home on Monday and his psychiatrist is asking that we not send him back.

CURRENT STATUS

Joseph is currently back in school and the principal has encouraged Joseph to report any incidents. We are grateful to the school for helping Joseph re-enter, but it has been hard on

into using a racial slur. When that happened, the kid who tricked my son spread the word that my son had called him a racial slur, with the implication that it had been done maliciously. My son was rushed by other kids in the cafeteria and threatened with physical harm, until the lunch monitor broke up the gathering. At the end of that school day my son was cornered by that same threatening group of boys and chased all the way to the bus.

I requested that in addition to the individual students being disciplined, that a larger group be addressed so that kids would know that my son was tricked and not being malicious. That did not happen. A few weeks later, kids with whom he had never interacted, found him in the hallway and tried to lure him into the bathroom. When that didn't work, they found him at the end of the day, and harassed him in the hallway. My son had no idea w

I am concerned about the amount of "face" that he has lost with these other students in class, specifically because Colton genuinely WANTS to be friends with people. It saddens me to think that many students may have already written Colton off because they never learned the skills to handle other students who are different from them. There is no neurodiversity training at all. This is why I have made a huge effort within SEPTA to focus on what "inclusion" really looks like at the elementary level, so that ALL students, not just those with disabilities, are learning these critical life skills of getting

Annual Plan

\$803.3 million budget

The school has five additional funds that can be used to hire sta
students. There is concern among some attendees that students at r
who are struggling with reading and math may not have equitable a
specialists. Further, there is nothing in the budget to address learning
among students with disabilities.

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With respect to the new Office of Legal Counsel attorney focusing on
issues, there is

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Advisory Council on Teaching and Learning Representative

There is a meeting of the Advisory Council on Teaching and Learning tomorrow, March 1, 2023. Seeking an ASEAC member who is willing to attend the meeting.

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The meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.

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