

Minutes of Suffolk Special Education Advisory Committee – July 17, 2019

Attendees:

Voting: Leslie Schiefer, Regina Hall, Saul Godinez, Vivian, Evett

Consultant: Julie Masters, Nitika Murphy, David Mitnick

Guest: Sherri Story

Absent: Courtney Richardson, Louis Bagley, Debra Bagley, Holly Boyce

I. Welcome and Introductions - Ms. Schiefer welcomed everyone and people introduced themselves.

II. Public Comment – None.

III. Announcements and Correspondence

Ms. Schiefer stated that member description, by-laws, and ground rules were given to new committee members.

Ms. Schiefer informed committee that the SEAC Facebook page was now active. Ms. Evett and Ms. Schiefer are admins of the page.

Ms. Schiefer has registered for regional SEAC training along with PEATC. Will provide information from the training at the next meeting.

VI. Old Business

A. Approval of May minutes - Correction of the spelling of LEAP. Approved as corrected.

B. Special Education Reports

1. Special Education Director's Report

Ms. Masters gave the report for Ms. Stephanie Whitley. There are 6 openings going into the school year. One position is a Pre-school ECSD. The rest are teacher positions. ESY continues. 36 elementary students attending and 28-30 middle school and high school students attending.

August 10 from 9-2 Suffolk District will have a back to school Resource Fair at Booker T. Washington Elementary. The Parent Resource Center will be in attendance. Mr. Godinez stated that a rep from Special Olympics will be in attendance.

Ms. Whitley, the new director started July 1st.

Ms. Masters met with Annett McLamb the routing specialist to discuss transportation and to prepare for the September 3 school year. Beverly Young is the new Transportation director.

Mr. Godinez mentioned the paper delays of the transportation forms. Ms. Masters mentioned that forms went out in May 2019 to correct any information that needed to be corrected by parents and students prior to the end of the 2018-2019 school year. Transportation letters will be issued to parents mid-August. Mr. Godinez recommends putting a notification on the school website to let parents know that if forms are missed or not filled out, that technology can be used.

Ms. Schiefer confirmed all the opening positions are teacher position.

Ms. Masters assured that positions will be filled by September 3.

Ms. Masters relayed information from Dianne Rusnak in response to the information that Mr. Godinez requested at the May meeting regarding the September opening of the SEE/US Program and the description of the Job Coach. They are working to identify new job sites and verify that continued participation is still active. Parties will meet with Special Education director with a list of job sites with a Memorandum of Understanding. The program will be working with transportation to develop a list of students who will be attending each site. The bus will be available to the job site, a sub will be provided if the driver is not available. The only time the bus will be canceled is if it done by the school. If a job coach is absent, then it will be canceled for the day. Students will return to their classroom.

Ms. Masters and Ms. Rusnak will revise and review the procedures to make sure they are in compliance.

Ms. Masters stated the SEE/US program has no official start date, but it ends at the end of the school year. Ms. Evett recommended a SEE/US Program subcommittee chaired by Mr. Godinez.

2. Parent Resource Center Report

Ms. Murphy gave her report. As of July 16, the PRC has received 2 visits and 13 incoming calls. Tutor services, IEP help, seeking resources for summer programs were a few calls received. On June 4, 2019, a meeting was held in Chesapeake to finalize the Donuts with Dad. Looking for a central location that is accessible for all. Donuts with Dad will be held September 14.

Mr. Mitnick will represent SEAC at the upcoming fair as Ms. Schiefer will be out recovering from surgery.

Ms. Schiefer recommends continuing the USE (Understanding Special Education) class. Ms. Murphy stated that USE class information can be found in Peach Jar. No parents have signed up, so no classes have been held.

Ms. Schiefer stated she has never seen any advertisements for USE class.

Mr. Godinez offered to provide a space for the Donuts with Dad function.

C. Nominations

Ms. Evett is the chairperson for the nomination subcommittee. Tiarra Logen-Biggs, Anitra Simmons, and Angela Miller have been nominated to the SEAC Committee. Leslie Schiefer, Regina Hall, Saul Godinez, Courtney Richardson, and Holly Boyce will be continuing.

Western Tidewater consultants Rebecca Shaw and Teresa Jackson Pope have not returned phone calls about returning to committee as consultants.

Mr. Godinez has recommended Thea Davis as a member but is having trouble getting in contact with her.

Ms. Hall made a motion to approve the new 2019-2020 members. New membership approved.

VII. New Business - Ms. Schiefer discussed the goals and planning for the 2019-2020 year. Many of the goals for 2018 - 2019 have been met. She recommended dropping the Driver at Excel committee. She

asked committee members to think about goals for the 2019 – 2020 school year and be ready to discuss them at the September 2019 meeting.

VIII. Public Comment Review – None.

IX. Open Discussion – Ms. Evett wanted to know the status of the Superintendent. Mr. Mitnick stated that 10 applicants have applied for the position. August the first round of candidates will be selected. The close date of applications will be August 2nd. The plan to have the selection by the end of August.

Ms. Schiefer mentioned that only 12 people completed the survey and suggested that the committee decide whether a future survey is beneficial to the committee.

Ms. Simmons suggested about shirts being created for SEAC.

Ms. Masters is making plans for the Disability awareness fair to take place in October 2019.

Mr. Mitnick recommended sending SEAC forms out via new enrollees through guidance office.

X. Adjournment - The next meeting will be September 18, 2019