

**Fairfax County Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities (ACSD)
Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2019**

Member Name		Organization	Attendance
Darcy	Acquavella	City of Fairfax School Board	P
Laura	Allen	Region 5	P
Joe	Alston	Member at Large (Moon)	P
Ally	Baldassari	SEPTA	P
Michael	Beattie	Disability Services Board	P
Cheri	Belkowitz *	Springfield District	P
Liz	Brocato	Braddock District	P
Brandon	Cassady	Hunter Mill District	P
Sandi	Dallhoff ***	Department of Neighborhood & Community Services	P
Debbie	DeJacques	Region 3	P
Susan	Edgerton	POAC - NOVA	P
Judy	Farabaugh	Member at Large (McElveen)	P
Mary Kate	Ganley	Student Representative	P
Meghan	Gray	Lee District	P
Mary	Hackman	Providence District	P
Harry	Henderson	Mason District	E
Lissy	John	Dranesville District	P
Lynn	Kiewel	Fairfax County Health Department	P
Toby	Latham	Assistive Technology Services	P
Erin	Lauer	Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board	P
Connie	Lorentzen **	Mount Vernon District	P
Rachel	Macias	Region 4	P
Linda	Mason	Higher Education	E
Melissa	Morrison	Region 1	P
Phara	Rodrigue	Member at Large (Keys-Gamarra)	P
Michael	Simon	Sully District	P
Joanne	Walton	Faculty Representative	P
Ann-Marie	Ward ***	Fairfax County Council of PTAs	P
Cathy	White	Transition Services	P
Jessica	White	Preschool	
Niki	Zimmerman	Region 2	P
Vacant		Federation of Citizens	
Vacant		League of Women Voters	

*** Chair **Vice-Chair *** Secretary P = Present E = Excused Absence R = Resigned**

FCPS Staff Who Were Present:

- Teresa Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Special Services
- Mike Bloom, Director of the Office of Special Education Instruction
- Dawn Clements, Assistant Ombudsman for Special Education
- Sara Cooner, Manager of Behavior Intervention Services
- Tina Wilkerson, Coordinator of Applied Behavior Analysis

School Board Liaison Present: Elizabeth Schultz, Springfield District

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Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Cheri Belkowitz

Agenda & Minutes:

- Judy motioned to approve the September minutes as presented. Susan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Judy motioned to approve the October minutes as presented. Susan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Connie introduced the agenda for the meeting. Judy moved to approve the agenda as presented. Joe seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

- Holly Stearns spoke about her 13 year old middle school student who has exhibited anxiety and frustration at school and in previous years has had exhibited avoidance tactics such as going to the nurse's office and calling to ask to go home. This year is going well so far due to all members of the team collaborating, good communication, and allowing honors level courses in areas of strength. In previous years, the student was in an AAP placement and the school team recommended a change to team taught gen ed class, which led to boredom and increase in frustration at school.
- Connie Lorentzen commended Office of Procedural Support for their help with VAAP paperwork.
- Ally Baldassari spoke as an individual as a parent of children with disabilities and FCPS staff member. She suggested that there are better behavior management programs than what are being used. These programs address students' lagging skills and reason for behavior. She recommends the work of Dr. Ross Greene, author of Collaborative and Proactive Solutions, whose methods suggest forgiving students and showing compassion. It was suggested that Dr. Greene might be a good candidate as a speaker for the Special Education Conference.
- Debra Tisler spoke about parents receiving accurate information from schools without fear of retaliation. Parents have had difficulty accessing student records and found them incomplete, and it is hard to know who has had access to those records. She wants to know why parents can't have access CSTARS (IEP computer program).

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Parent Resource Center News:

- Mary Beth Harrison-Cunningham, Director of the PRC, could not attend but sent an update via email with links to upcoming workshops, which can be found on the PRC website. Many of the workshops are also available on their YouTube channel.

Presentation: Supporting Behavioral Needs in FCPS Schools

- The speakers were Tina Wilkerson, who is a BCBA and the Director of ABA for FCPS, and Sara Cooner, who is the Program Manager for FCPS Behavior Intervention Services.
- According to Ms. Wilkerson, ABA is a scientifically proven and empirically validated approach.
- FCPS uses a Coaching Model. The 20 ABA coaches (14 licensed BCBAs and 6 teachers) visit the classroom to give feedback to teachers and staff. Building teacher expertise is the most important.
- The impacted classrooms include 65 Preschool Autism Classrooms (PAC), with potentially 2 more on the way, 150 Enhanced Autism Classrooms (EAC), and 118 Secondary Cat B classrooms.
- Coaches visit every 7-9 days, each coach has 15-19 classes on their caseload, and their focus is on building staff capacity in the areas of:
 - Curriculum
 - Technique
 - Classroom management
 - Data collection
 - FBAs and BIPs
- Most coaches do not attend IEP meetings; specialists do that instead.
- Coaches also collaborate with other specialists and bus drivers and support classrooms outside of their caseload.
- Professional Development is provided for teachers and staff: Didactic (training), Hands-on (summer), as well as the coaching model.
- Required Training for Teachers and Staff: ABA Fundamentals, Verbal Behavior Fundamentals, ABA Hands On. There are lots of other training opportunities. IAs can come to all trainings and must do the required ones.
- Monthly Parent Trainings: ABA Overview, Home-School Collaboration, Toilet Training, Behaviors at Home, Social Skills, Transition to Middle School, Independence and Self Advocacy, Communication
- The ABA program collects data on staff capacity and effectiveness of training of teachers, rather than student achievement
- Ms. Cooner gave an overview of Behavior Intervention Services, which provides comprehensive intervention support for pre-K to 12, both gen ed and special ed.
- Each pyramid has an assigned BIT (25 total). Each one supports about 8 schools with behavioral support and intervention, pro-active resource to the school, de-escalation, safe supportive instructional environment, evidence-based strategies to build staff capacity

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- BITs support gen ed students (with or without 504 plan), special education students (including emotional disabilities, autism, etc), early childhood preschool classes
- BITs provide support for teachers: collaboration, IEP input, in-service opportunities, crisis intervention and prevention plans, model effective intervention strategies and techniques, create student-centered environments, develop data collection systems
- BITs provide support for students: serve as a team member for design, implementation, and monitoring of behavior plans, FBA / BIP process, student crisis intervention planning and support
- BITs provide support for parents: PRC programs, identify community resources, home-school communication systems
- Behavior Intervention Services provides professional development for teachers and staff: Academy Courses (points for certification), central office and regional trainings, school-based trainings, individual coaching sessions, training for SROs and bus drivers.
- Data for the school year so far: 3160 direct supports (coaching, FBA / BIP, IEPs) for 3741.5 hours, 35% gen ed, 65% special ed, school-based trainings 61%, district/regional 39%, number of staff trained 2075.

Special Education Update:

- Teresa Johnson: Congratulations to Mike Bloom for being named the Director of the Office of Special Education Instruction.
- Mike Bloom:
 - Purchased resources for executive functioning and distributed to schools (Executive Function Skill Building Program)
 - Dyslexia specialist Carrie Leestma should be an Orton-Gillingham trainer by spring so that FCPS staff can receive training directly.
 - Update on Restraint and Seclusion – Equity office is providing training for administrators/principals, MTSS frameworks for every school, looking for a consistent social-emotional learning program across the district

Subcommittee Updates:

- **Family Engagement & Outreach**

Chair: Ann-Marie Ward

Thanks to all for your support of the Meet and Greet. The sub-committee tried various outreach efforts to publicize the event, including joint efforts with FCCPTA and SEPTA, requests to principals to include in their weekly news, requests to supervisors and school board members, publication in Fairfax Connection newspaper, etc. There were mixed results, but there were more members of the public in attendance than the previous Meet and Greet. Partnering with SEPTA was a great idea. Cheri and Sandi are compiling notes from the

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break-out sessions. Cheri emailed the paper surveys that were returned. Darcy made a Google Form version that is anonymous. The sub-committee distributed paper handouts with a link and QR code that can be distributed to the community by members of the committee.

The ACSD now has a Facebook page and Twitter account. All members of the committee are asked to help publicize these accounts. The sub-committee submitted a draft Social Media Policy to govern the use of these accounts. A suggestion was made to add moderation as a duty of administrators to section 1(c).

A motion to approve the Social Media Policy as amended was made by Sandi and seconded by Michael. The motion was approved unanimously.

- **Policy and Regulation**

Co-Chairs: Ally Baldassari & Brandon Cassady

The subcommittee has decided to focus on Restraint and Seclusion. They will be using information that is available from the suspended Task Force.

- **Student Achievement & Outcomes**

Chair needs to be determined. No report.

- **School Board Charge**

Chair: Susan Edgerton

Nothing new to report

New Business:

- Cheri shared a packet from Prince William County schools that is distributed to families at eligibility meetings / IEP meetings. The folder includes an introductory letter, Critical Decision Points packet, list of acronyms and definitions, information about the PRC, TTAC online, the Arc, ESY, SEAC, regional coordinators contact list, some info in Spanish. She would like to see FCPS implement something like this.
- Dr. Ivey has convened an AAP Focus Group. Connie, Michael, and Cheri will attend on behalf of the ACSD.
- There was discussion about why FCPS has still not provided an email address to put on our website (e.g. acsd@fcps.edu).
 - Another advisory committee FPAC has a generic email address and each member has an individual email address.
 - Many other Virginia districts have an email address provided by their district and listed on the district website.

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- Can we create a generic email account via Gmail? If so, would FCPS put it on our website?
- Is FCPS denying the ACSD the ability to communicate and fulfill our mission? Is the FCPS-hosted website circumventing our committee? Should we file a complaint with the State?

- Michael Beattie motioned to draft a resolution requesting FCPS email addresses for all members of the ACSD by December 10. Phara Rodrigue seconded. The votes were 16 yea and 10 abstentions.
- The committee will discuss a possible complaint at our next meeting, depending on FCPS response to our resolution.

- Cheri reiterated a committee email address would be useful for generic business cards that could also list our social media accounts. The ACSD has no budget for these items. Other SEACs have more professional information tables with a tablecloth, trifold, brochures, cards, etc. Members of the ACSD should not have to spend their personal funds on these items.

Announcements:

- Monday, November 18, 6:30 pm – At the School Board meeting, there will be an inclusive schools week resolution as well as SEPTA Inclusion Night in the cafeteria with lightning round presentations (Special Olympics, Best Buddies, etc). The school board meeting is held in the auditorium at Luther Jackson MS, the presentations will be held in the cafeteria.

- Thursday, November 21 is the Arc of Northern Virginia annual meeting where you can meet state legislators. Lissy John is the president-elect.

- Congratulations to former ACSD member Rachna Sizemore Heizer for being elected to the School Board At-Large!

Meeting adjourned: Cheri Belkowitz adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.