

***State Special Education Advisory Committee (SSEAC)***  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**July 16-18, 2014**

**Wednesday, July 16, 2014**

**Members Present:** Mr. Adam Amick, Ms. Lori Black, Ms. Sandy Hermann, Mr. Darren Minarik

**Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Representative Present:** Dr. Suzanne Creasey

Members of the executive committee convened at 6:00 p.m. with Dr. Suzanne Creasey to develop a draft annual report to the Board of Education. Members reviewed past minutes for information from presentations, public comments, and constituency reports to identify trends and issues. The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m. after consensus was reached on the draft report.

**Thursday, July 17, 2014**

**Members Present:** Mr. Adam Amick, Ms. Lori Black, Ms. Jusolyn Bradshaw, Mr. Jack Brandt, Ms. Jennifer Cooper, Ms. Christy Evanko, Ms. Jackie Fagan, Ms. Sandra Hermann, Ms. Catherine King, Dr. Scott Kizner, Ms. Erica Midboe, Mr. Darren Minarik, Mr. Wyllys VanDerwerker, Ms. Frederique Vincent, Ms. Jacqui Wilson

**Members Absent:** Ms. Alison MacArthur, Ms. Paula Baker, Mr. Brenden Folmar, Ms. Kristi Lockhart

**Ex-officio Members Present:** Ms. Heidi Lawyer (VBPD)

**Ex-officio Members Absent:** Ms. Suzanne Bowers (PEATC)

**Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Representatives Present:** Dr. Suzanne Creasey, Mr. John Eisenberg, Ms. Patricia Haymes, Ms. Marianne Moore, Ms. Michele Orr, Mr. Jeff Phenicie

**Call to Order**

Ms. Lori Jackson Black, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. The committee members introduced themselves.

**Dr. Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction**

Dr. Staples greeted all members, and he shared perspectives on public education, including how public education has changed over time. He emphasized the importance of education for students with disabilities and how inclusive education, when done well, benefits all students. He discussed the problems with schools that have a high percentage of students who come from poverty. He discussed the state agency role in providing leadership, including identifying

models of success and sharing those with other schools. He also highlighted the need for areas within the department, as well as external agencies, to work together and break down the silos that may be barriers to success.

## **Business Session**

### **Approval of Agenda**

The committee was asked to review the proposed agenda. Ms. Evanko made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Midboe. It was approved unanimously.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The committee was asked if there were any changes to the minutes. No changes were noted.

### **Report on Follow-up to Public Comment from Previous Meeting**

There were no comments at the last meeting.

### **Meeting Dates**

Committee members discussed dates for upcoming meetings, including a need to reschedule the September meeting since the scheduled meeting conflicts with the September Board of Education meeting. Planned dates for meetings include:

- September 25-26, 2014
- December 11-12, 2014
- March 26-27, 2015
- July 23-24, 2015
- October 1-2, 2015
- December 3-4, 2015

### **Plan for the Development of the Annual Plan**

A draft of the annual plan was disseminated to members to review during breaks and lunch and it was discussed later in the day.

## **Presentation**

### **Inclusive Education in Virginia**

Dr. Teresa Lee, a specialist at VDOE, provided information on students who are served in general education settings. She shared information about activities by VDOE to identify and disseminate information about effective collaborative instruction. At a fall institute on language arts, special education will be included and will have the opportunity to focus on how to make co-teaching work well.

She emphasized the need to have a continuum of services with opportunities for small group instruction in more intensive settings. The agency is planning an institute on multi-sensory reading instruction based on the Orton-Gillingham approach. The agency is also planning an institute on multi-sensory math instruction.

A workgroup has formed that is focusing on schools that are struggling to provide inclusive education. The workgroup is developing a tool that schools can use to assess their inclusive practices. The workgroup is analysing data to see if there is a correlation between inclusive instruction and student outcomes. What seems evident is that the placement does not necessarily dictate the outcome, but further analysis will help to determine this.

**Assistant Superintendent's Report**  
by Mr. John Eisenberg

Mr. Eisenberg introduced Mr. Jeff Phenicie and asked him to present information on data related to student outcome ratings as identified by the U.S. Department of Education. After reviewing the data, Virginia was ranked first in the nation. There were 18 states that met requirements. Thirty-six need assistance, and the rest need intervention. Virginia was rated 95 out of 100. There will be a new indicator 17 which will result in a state systematic improvement plan, and six-year plan.

Mr. Eisenberg then shared information about:

New Resources:

- Supplemental Funds for Non-Title I Schools in Improvement (distributed Spring 2014)
  - \$2.3 million in grants
- Teacher Evaluation for Non-tested Areas (coming soon, August 2014)
- Co-teaching Resources (coming soon)

New Guidelines:

- Evaluation and Eligibility (revised 2013)
- Learning Disabilities (October 2013, updated January 2014)
- Emotional Disabilities (coming soon)
- Functional Behavior Assessment and Behavior Intervention Planning (coming soon)
- Related Services (coming soon)
- Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy Services (revision coming soon)
- VAAP Participation: Determination of Significant Cognitive Disability (revised Spring 2014)

Continuing Initiatives:

- DyslexiaEd Web site Subscription (continuing with expanded information)
  - <http://www.dyslexiaed.com/>
  - Free to all divisions
- Early Childhood Collaboration

- Inclusive preschool placement options
  - Preschool curriculum training and resources alignment with new Preschool Foundation Blocks
- Traumatic Brain Injury Team Training
- Deaf-Blind Intervener Training
  - Virginia Project for Children and Youth with Deaf-Blindness
- Autism Sites for Embedded TA (VCU-ACE cohort 2)
  - Alexandria City, Bedford County, Chesapeake County, Franklin County, Spotsylvania County, Warren County

#### New Initiatives

- VA Preschool Foundation Blocks
  - Revised with New Materials
- Collaboration Institutes
  - Science, Math, English
- Co-teaching Demo Sites
- Reading/Literacy Teacher Training
  - Multi-sensory and Language Fundamentals
- AIM-VA Center
  - Expanded Ordering Process
- State Action Plan for Deaf/Hard of Hearing
  - Improving Outcomes through Transition
  - VSDB Outreach Program - Dr. Debbie Pfeiffer will serve as Program Director
- Braille Training for VI Teachers
- Special Diploma

#### Commission on Youth

- Restraint and Seclusion Study (HB 1106)
  - Survey of School Divisions (Mandatory)
    - Does the LEA have a policy for Restraint?
    - Does the LEA have a policy for Seclusion?
    - Where did they get the policies?
    - Definitions of practices
    - Training on practices
    - Incident reporting
  - The survey should be completed no later than Monday, August 11, 2014
  - To be presented to General Assembly in 2015 Session

#### Licensure Update

- Speech and Language Pathologist
- Add-On Endorsements

#### State-wide On-line IEP Update

## Working Lunch

The Committee adjourned for a working lunch at 12:00 p.m. and returned for Public Comment at 1:00 p.m.

## Public Comment

There were seven public comments, and each addressed the difficulties of students with dyslexia and the need for multi-sensory reading instruction, as well as early identification.

## Constituency Reports

Name	Report
<b>Mr. Adam Amick</b> <i>People with Disabilities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No Report</li></ul>
<b>Ms. Paula Baker</b> <i>Parent Representative, Region 8</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Absent</li></ul>
<b>Ms. Lori Jackson Black</b> <i>Parent Representative, Region 3</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Mathews School Division has allocated money to reopen the Parent Resource Center and has hired someone for the position. Materials are always accessible at the local library.</li></ul>
<b>Ms. Jusolyn Bradshaw</b> <i>Juvenile Justice</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Andy Block has been appointed the new director of the Department of Juvenile Justice. He has experience with JustChildren.</li><li>• The new Deputy Superintendent of Juvenile Justice is Dr. Lisa Floyd who has experience in rural education.</li></ul>
<b>Mr. Jack Brandt</b> <i>People with Disabilities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No Report</li></ul>
<b>Ms. Jennifer Cooper</b> <i>Foster Care - DSS</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A new director, Mr. Carl Ayers, has been hired. Mr. Ayers was formerly a local social services director in Floyd County.</li><li>• The agency is developing guidance on special education for children in foster care. They have included the VDOE in this effort.</li></ul>
<b>Ms. Christy Evanko</b> <i>Parent Representative, Region 1</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No report</li></ul>
<b>Ms. Jackie Fagan</b> <i>Parent Representative, Region 7</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There has been no parent resource center for awhile. Pulaski will be reopening their center for about 10 hours per week.</li></ul>
<b>Mr. Brendan Folmar</b> <i>Private Education</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Absent</li></ul>
<b>Ms. Kristi Lockhart</b> <i>State Agency - Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Absent</li></ul>
<b>Ms. Sandra Hermann</b> <i>Parent Representative, Region 2</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Williamsburg SEAC has had extensive turnover of members and officers during the quarter.</li><li>• The Norfolk SEAC reported that the chair of the SEAC resigned after a conflict with the school division that resulted in a due process hearing. Several other members of Norfolk SEAC are considering resigning, and the special education staff assigned as liaisons have transferred to other departments in the division. Current members have reported that the situation may affect the</li></ul>

Name	Report
	<p>recruitment process for potential new members. An upcoming summer meeting will be scheduled to try and determine how to address some of these issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Chesapeake SEAC has gained new members and is currently involved in setting goals for the upcoming year as well as scheduling meetings and presentations. A summer meeting has been scheduled to work on some business items before the school year begins.</li> <li>• The Virginia Beach SEAC has updated the transportation manual for students with disabilities to include people-first language. They are looking at issues related to transporting students to and from after-school activities, specific bus decorations, medical training for bus drivers and assistants, parental contact in the event of an emergency while on the bus, conflicts of interest between bus drivers and assistants, physical and medical requirements of staff, and the transportation brochure. Additional questions have arisen about students with disabilities participating in driver's education classes and adapted cars.</li> <li>• There continue to be issues within the region about intermittent homebound/home-based services for students with ongoing chronic medical concerns to include implementation, documentation required/needed, physician follow-up, absenteeism, participation in extra-curricular activities, and homebound vs. home-based vs. IEP-driven services.</li> <li>• Difficulty with and lack of adequate information and training has arisen from numerous divisions and teachers in implementing and utilizing assistive technology, augmentative communication, and picture communication systems into the curriculum. Problems were specifically noted when working with students who are non-verbal and trying to understand how to adapt/modify the curriculum, lessons, tests, classwork, homework and grading to allow participation in the curriculum. The Williamsburg SEAC has had a lot of turnover.</li> <li>• Virginia Beach has revamped documents using person-first language.</li> <li>• There continue to be concerns about intermittent homebound/home-based services for children with disabilities.</li> <li>• Some localities report difficulty implementing assistive technology into the curriculum.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ms. Catherine King</b> <i>Parent Representative, Region 6</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Report</li> </ul>
<p><b>Dr. Scott Kizner</b> <i>Local Education Officials</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Report</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ms. Alison MacArthur</b> <i>Teachers</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Absent</li> </ul>

Name	Report
<p><b>Ms. Heidi Lawyer</b> <i>VBPD</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board will be releasing the 2014 Assessment of the Disability Services System by September 1, 2014. It includes a chapter on education and specific recommendations regarding improving educational practices and outcomes for students with disabilities.</li> <li>• The Board will be conducting its annual satisfaction survey in August and September this year. Those on the mailing list will receive a copy.</li> <li>• The Youth Leadership Forum begins next week. There are 22 student delegates from across the state.</li> <li>• At the September 2014 meeting, the Board will be looking at funds available and providing guidance to staff regarding development of competitive RFPs for FFY 2016 grant awards (to be awarded in June 2015 with a start date of October 1, 2015).</li> <li>• October is Disability History and Awareness Month and Disability Employment Month and the agency will be working with other organizations to promote and educate about people with disabilities.</li> <li>• The Partners in Policymaking program, planned to begin in September, has been delayed due to a staffing shortage. Two of three training program staff have accepted new positions. The agency will be advertising the Program and Training Manager position with a closing date of August 1. Later in August, the agency we will be advertising for a Training Coordinator to take care of the day-to-day logistics of external and internal training and public input activities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ms. Erica Midboe</b> <i>Transition and Vocational Services</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Report</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mr. Darren Minarik</b> <i>Higher Education</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Report</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mr. Wyllys VanDerwerker</b> <i>Local Directors of Special Education</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Virginia Council of Administrators of Special Education (VCASE) conducted their spring 2014 conference on May 21-May 23. Mr. John Eisenberg, assistant superintendent for Special Education and Student Services, presented a comprehensive overview of Federal and State initiatives specific to special education instruction, transition, and school improvement. VCASE also welcomed featured keynote presenters, Noelle Ellerson and Dr. Frances Stetson, to its annual spring conference with the theme “Leaders of Learning, Stewards of Change.”</li> <li>• Noelle Ellerson, associate executive director, Policy and Advocacy of the American Association of School Administrators (AASA), directs the legislative and advocacy efforts of the AASA in Congress and the U.S. Department of Education. Noelle’s presentation focused on leveraging the voice of school administrators in all aspects of federal education policy through member networks, outreach, policy analysis, and involvement in the legislative process.</li> <li>• Dr. Stetson is president of Stetson and Associates, Inc., an educational consulting firm specializing in supporting systems change in schools, with a focus on inclusive practices, closing the achievement gap, differentiated instruction and quality standards for instruction and leadership particularly for struggling learners.</li> </ul>

Name	Report
<p><b>Ms. Frederique Vincent</b> <i>Parent Representative, Region 4</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Out of the five schools that earned the Governor’s Award for Educational Excellence, the highest VIP award, three are in Region 4: Carson Middle, Longfellow Middle and Rocky Run Middle in Fairfax County.</li> <li>• One focus of the Fauquier SEAC over the past school year, post-graduate education, found resonance with a forum sponsored by the Arc of North Central VA last May on a community housing initiative geared to fully support adults with developmental disabilities who can, with individualized support, live independently. Susan McCorkindale, local author and parent of a son with Autism, presented the information she had researched thus far on the supportive housing option. Land options have already been identified for the future “Casey’s Place.” The SEAC will be attending future meetings on this initiative which, although not directly related to special education, goes with the need to provide a full array of options to post-graduates with disabilities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ms. Jacqui Wilson</b> <i>Parent Representative, Region 5</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Absent</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ms. Suzanne Bowers</b> <i>Ex-officio member, PEATC</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Absent</li> </ul>

**Adjourn**

Mr. Kizner made a motion to adjourn, and Mr. Amick seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

**Friday, April 4, 2014**

**Members Present:** Mr. Adam Amick, Ms. Lori Black, Ms. Jusolyn Bradshaw, Mr. Jack Brandt, Ms. Jennifer Cooper, Ms. Christy Evanko, Ms. Jackie Fagan, Ms. Sandra Hermann, Ms. Catherine King, Ms. Erica Midboe, Mr. Darren Minarik, Mr. Wyllys VanDerwerker, Ms. Frederique Vincent

**Members Absent:** Ms. Alison MacArthur, Ms. Paula Baker, Mr. Brenden Folmar, Dr. Scott Kizner, Ms. Kristi Lockhart, Ms. Jacqui Wilson

**Ex-officio Member Present:** Ms. Heidi Lawyer (VBPD)

**Ex-officio Member Absent:** Ms. Suzanne Bowers (PEATC)

**Virginia Department of Education Representatives Present:** Mr. John Eisenberg, Dr. Suzanne Creasey, Ms. Patricia Haymes, Dr. Teresa Lee

**Call to Order**

Ms. Lori Black, chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Members were asked to convene



in subcommittees.

### **Subcommittee Meetings**

Subcommittees met and were asked to review and identify recommendations and revisions to the draft annual report developed by executive committee members. Representatives from the Department of Education met with each subcommittee to assist with this process. Each subcommittee was asked to develop a list of suggested revisions and recommendations for consideration by the full committee.

### **Annual Plan Development**

Ms. Black and Ms. Evanko facilitated reports from each subcommittee as they led a discussion of the draft plan. Revisions and recommendations were made using a consensus process. Mr. Minarik made a motion to accept the revisions and Ms. Fagan seconded the motion. The report, as amended, was accepted unanimously by the committee and will be edited by Department of Education personnel before forwarding to the Board of Education. A presentation to the Board of Education is planned for September.

### **Public Comment Review**

Public comments were all related to needs of students with dyslexia. The committee members suggested that the commenters be reminded that not all students with dyslexia qualify for special education and that reading instruction is a general education responsibility. Also, the members suggested that the commenters be informed that the annual report to the Board of Education includes a commendation on “the development and progress toward the availability of concurrent licensure endorsement in special education for content teachers. Such licensure will improve the ability of general education teachers to meet the needs of diverse learners through better skills related to data collection, behavior management, and differentiated instruction.”

### **Suggested Agenda Topics for Upcoming Meetings**

The topics requested to be addressed for future meetings are as follows:

- Transition Center & Post-secondary Projects – September
- Richmond Academy (RCEEA – Richmond Career Education and Employment Academy) Update – September
- Credit Accommodations
- Issues related to dispute resolution – data analysis of trends – December
- Restraint and Seclusion Report – December
- Aspiring Leaders – December
- Update on Homebound/Home-based Instruction when it is revised

Ms. Hermann made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Amick seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.