

**STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SSEAC)
TO THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION (BOE)
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (VDOE)**
Four Points by Sheraton Richmond Airport
Henrico, Virginia

Meeting Minutes
March 30-31, 2017

Thursday, March 30

Committee Members:

Mr. Adam Amick
Mrs. Jill Becker
Ms. Suzanne Bowers, Ex-officio (Absent)
Mr. Jack M. Brandt (Absent)
Dr. Jeffrey D. Cassell
Mrs. Christy Evanko, Secretary
Mr. Damon J. Garrison
Mrs. Christine Germeyer
Mrs. Catherine King
Ms. Heidi L. Lawyer, Ex-officio
Mr. Matthew Luther
Ms. Alison MacArthur, Vice Chair
Ms. Tashue Mason (Absent)
Mrs. Erica Midboe
Mr. Darren W. Minarik, Chair
Ms. Lisa Richard
Ms. Lora Smith
Mr. Brian Summo (Absent)
Ms. Joan Sumner
Mr. Wyllys D. VanDerwerker
Ms. Jacqui Wilson

VDOE Representatives:

Ms. Tracie Coleman

Ms. Gloria Dalton
Ms. Pat Haymes
Dr. Dawn Hendricks
Dr. Teresa Lee
Mrs. Tracy Lee
Mr. Hank Millward
Mr. Jeff Phenicie
Ms. Denise A. Throckmorton (Recording)

Other Participants:

Dr. Suzanne Creasey
Ms. Nichole Drummond, Parent Educational
Advocacy Training Center (PEATC)
Ms. Mona Siddiqui, Assistant Attorney
General, Office of the Attorney General (OAG)
Ms. Jean Steveson, Virginia Department for
Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)
Ms. Susan Williams, Assistant Attorney
General, Office of the Attorney General (OAG)

Other Guests:

Dr. Mike Asip
Ms. Beth Haw
Ms. Kim Owens

Call to Order

Mr. Minarik called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. The committee members and Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) staff introduced themselves.

Business Session

Approval of Agenda

The committee was asked to review the proposed agenda. Mrs. Germeyer made a motion to approve the agenda and Mrs. Midboe seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. Some changes were made to accommodate the schedule of Mr. John Eisenberg, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services (SESS), VDOE.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were distributed electronically prior to the meeting and members were encouraged to come prepared with any changes. Mrs. Evanko made a motion to approve the minutes with changes. Ms. MacArthur seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Report Follow-up to Public Comment from Previous Meeting

Mr. Millward, Director, Office of Specialized Education Facilities and Family Engagement (SEFFE), VDOE, has not been able to address the public comment from the December meeting and will do so in the future.

Election of Officers for biennial beginning July 2017

The slate of officers was read by the Secretary:

Chair – Ms. Allison MacArthur (for a term of one year)

Vice Chair – Mrs. Christine Germeyer

Secretary – Mrs. Catherine King

At-large – Mrs. Jill Becker, Mrs. Erica Midboe, Mr. Brian Summo and Ms. Jacqui Wilson (for a term of one year)

The Chair asked for a voice vote as no one was running opposed. Mr. VanDerwerker made a motion to vote and Mr. Amick seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the Committee welcomed the new officers.

Review, Discussion, and Approval of Proposed SSEAC Bylaws

The changes to the SSEAC Bylaws were read to the Committee. The Committee asked VDOE to clarify what it means to “comment publicly.” Mrs. King made a motion to accept the new bylaws with changes. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee decided to also discuss the Guidelines for Public Comment, originally scheduled for discussion on Friday. The Committee made changes to the guidelines; but noted that there needs to be further discussion on continuing to allow public comment to be made by means other than in writing or in person (i.e. video or audio recordings); beginning at the next SSEAC meeting. Mrs. Germeyer made a motion to accept the proposed changes to Guidelines for Public Comment, including the video references. Ms. MacArthur seconded the motion. It is important

to note that any changes to the SSEAC Bylaws must be reviewed and approved by the Virginia Board of Education.

Presentations

Special Education Family Engagement Update

- *Ms. Gloria Dalton, Parent Ombudsman, SEFFE, VDOE*

Ms. Dalton distributed an informational flyer for the Center for Family Involvement and gave a short presentation of the family engagement activities including the VDOE state funded, I'm Determined project and Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC).

Virginia Board for People with Disabilities (VBPD) Grant Update

- *Mrs. Tracy Lee, Family Engagement Specialist, SEFFE, VDOE*

The Virginia Board for People with Disabilities (VBPD) provided a grant to produce four-pronged parent trainings to include a printed guide, web-based training modules that will be available on the VDOE website, eight parent, face-to-face trainings in the eight Superintendent regions, and three train-the-trainer presentations. This will begin in January 2018 through September 2018. Two focus groups were held and were comprised of two-thirds education professionals and one-third parents and persons with disabilities. A suggestion was made to reach out to school divisions who may already have products they use. Mr. VanDerwerker made several suggestions to collaborate with other organizations and to connect with other state agencies on these initiatives. A suggestion was made to ask the VBPD for another grant if appropriate. Ms. Lee shared that the second quarter is ending tomorrow, March 31, 2017, and they are working on the content and draft review in April. Ms. Lee indicated that changes are anticipated with other initiatives such as "Profile of a Graduate" for example. She stated that this project and document is intended to be short and direct in content to direct persons and parents to other resources as well.

The Annual Plans Applications

- *Ms. Tracie Coleman, Special Education Budget and Finance Manager, SESS, VDOE*

Information on the State Operated Programs (SOP) federal *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) 611 and Preschool 619 budgets for 2017-2018 was distributed to the Committee as the summary of applications are required to be made available for review by the Committee. The Committee was asked to review the list as a vote is not required. The VDOE is not expecting and changes in the federal funding based on the newest proposed federal budget. The formula for funding is based on historical data (December 1, 1998), census data, and poverty levels.

Pre-Employment Transition Services

- *Ms. Jean Steveson, Director of Transition Services, Division of Rehabilitative Services, Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)*

Ms. Steveson presented on the Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC) and DARS initiatives. The change focuses on competitive integrated employment and expands the population that they serve, and also gets an early start on job exploration. DARS sets aside 15 percent of their federal funding to work with students with disabilities (\$9.6 M). “Congress makes clear that youth with significant disabilities must be given every opportunity to receive the services necessary to ensure the maximum potential to achieve competitive integrated employment.” Pre-employment transition services (Pre-ETS) are an early start on job exploration. Services are available to persons under the age of 18 who meet the requirements and are potentially eligible for services. Five Pre-ETS activities include job exploration counseling, work-based learning, counseling on opportunities for postsecondary education, workplace readiness, and instruction in self-advocacy. There are responsibilities that the schools have for connecting with DARS and vice versa.

Recognition of Service to SSEAC Presentation to Dr. Suzanne Creasey

- *Ms. Pat Haymes Director, Office of Dispute Resolution and Administrative Services (ODRAS), VDOE, for Mr. John Eisenberg*
- *Mr. Darren Minarik, Chair*

Ms. Haymes presented on behalf of Mr. Eisenberg a certificate of recognition to former VDOE employee, Dr. Creasey, for her service to the SSEAC. Mr. Minarik thanked Dr. Creasey on her years of service to the Committee.

Working Lunch

The committee adjourned at 11:55 a.m. for a working lunch and reconvened at 1:04 p.m.

Public Comment

Dr. Mike Asip, President of the Virginia Council of Administrators for Special Education (VCASE), thanked VDOE for their development of the new Indicator 8 survey.

Ms. Beth Haw shared information about the Exceptional Eagles Club in Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools. The club was founded as a way to break the stigma associated with special needs and promote inclusive activities. The club presented to their local school board the school banner the club created and passed out bracelets that said, “Spread the word to end the word” that were designed to help eliminate the use of the “r-word.”

Eight emails were received and read by various members regarding inclusive efforts and supporting students with disabilities in general education settings. Many of the communications included specific recommendations including the following:

- Recommend VDOE engage an external expert to evaluate the status, trends, needs, and barriers across the Commonwealth to guide the development of an inclusion implementation plan.
- Recommend VDOEs Training and Technical Assistance Center (T/TAC) at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) and PEATC conduct inclusive education symposiums for general and special educators, paraprofessionals, administrators, support personnel

(e.g., speech, occupational therapy, etc.), higher education facilities, and advocates to be presented by established experts on inclusive educational practices. This would be part of an ongoing education series that builds on videos and learning associated with co-teaching demonstration sites with a focus on best practices identified for students with low-incidence disabilities and those on alternative assessments.

- Recommend VDOE establish a Virginia Inclusion Center of Excellence similar to the Maryland Center for Inclusive Education (MCIE) or the New Jersey Center for Inclusive Education (NJCIE) to meet the need for capacity building of inclusive education at the local level.
- Communicate to all local SEACs about: 1) the resources Including Me in Virginia (advocacy group) is developing, 2) identifying parent advocates as well as educators who have inclusive classrooms with the goal of networking them across the Commonwealth with others, and 3) suggestions for forming and executing an inclusive education subcommittee at the local SEAC level.
- Recommend VDOE develop inclusion guidance document(s) to clarify:
 - LRE (least restrictive environment) decision making, i.e., students would only be removed from LRE setting upon student or parent request, or when meaningful and appropriate supports and accommodations have been provided to allow that student to succeed in the general education setting—academically, behaviorally, and emotionally—and those efforts have failed.
 - Best practices in inclusive education, including gifted students, English language learners, and students with complex and significant support needs, in the general education setting in their neighborhood school, with differentiated or modified instruction for students requiring more intensive supports.
 - Multi-tiered system of services and supports as an essential component to inclusive education.
 - How to critically review and, if necessary, revise the vision, mission, policies, procedures, etc. to encourage and support inclusive education.

One email received and read was from a parent of a child with multiple disabilities who is concerned with research-based instruction methods in reading and math not being used in Norfolk City Public Schools.

Four videos were recorded by the Center for Family Involvement at the Partnership for People with Disabilities conference at VCU shown where parents discussed the need for more inclusion in schools and what inclusion means to them.

One video was from a parent of a child who does not have a disability and how her child was positively impacted by being included with a child with a disability.

One video was from a parent whose children (one with a disability and one without) participated in a reverse program and his positive experiences with that program in Hanover County.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Recognition of Service Awards to Outgoing SSEAC Members

- *Ms. Pat Haymes for Mr. John Eisenberg*

Ms. Haymes presented certificates to outgoing members Mr. VanDerwerker, Mrs. Evanko, Mr. Amick, and Mr. Minarik.

Inclusion and Dyslexia

- *Dr. Teresa Lee, Special Education Instruction Coordinator/Learning Disabilities, Special Education Instructional Services (SEIS), SESS, VDOE and Dr. Dawn Hendricks, Specialist-Early Childhood, SEIS, SESS, VDOE*

Dr. Teresa Lee shared the initiatives and a copy of the revised February 2017, VDOE, [Specific Learning Disability Supplementary Guide, Dyslexia: Frequently Asked Questions](#). She shared that all teachers will be required to have training in dyslexia prior to licensure and renewal. Dr. Lee also stated copies of the revised February 2017, [Virginia's Guidelines for Educating Students with Specific Learning Disabilities](#) guidance booklet is available as well. The dyslexia training modules are complete and will be distributed soon. It is designed for parents and teachers and is 40 minutes long. Committee members were provided with newest guidance document.

Ms. Lee and Dr. Hendricks discussed their inclusive practices action plan. Recommendations from the summer 2016 workshop were included in the Committee folders. There are four components to the statewide plan: 1) looking at data, especially with respect to those who need significant supports, 2) professional development, 3) guidance and support to be filed, and 4) current initiatives and how to enhance them. There will be a three-day inclusive education academy this summer. Three or more team members will be chosen from select divisions to attend and they will be sent back with an action plan. Follow-up will be in the spring. The VDOE is also developing a guidance document. Finally, the VDOE wants to highlight the divisions who are “doing it well,” including students socially, academically, and physically. The initiative will begin with preschool and go through high school.

Legislative Efforts

- *Ms. Susan Williams*

Ms. Williams discussed bills from the most recent session. She highlighted specific bills of interest, but more information can be found at <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/legislation/>. Please note that this document may not be the latest. For specific bills (all inclusive) see <http://lis.virginia.gov>. Ms. Williams stated that although the session ended, the legislators will reconvene to discuss the Governor’s amendments and vetoes.

Restraint and Seclusion, and Supreme Court

Restraint and Seclusion

- *Ms. Pat Haymes*

Ms. Haymes shared that restraint and seclusion in Virginia went into effect in 2014, and has been the longest running item before the Board of Education (BOE). She shared that the decisions

made were a compromise, and BOE rejected the advocacy groups to call for elimination of seclusion. VDOE chose to allow a student to have an opportunity to seclude to calm down and de-escalate. There was a compromise with regards to prone versus supine restraints, and they went back to U.S. Department of Education (USDE) policy to prevent restraint that would put a student in a position to affect their breathing. Ms. Haymes stated that information is available at the “Town Hall” website. These changes will be reviewed by policy and legislation, and the Attorney General’s Office prior to being sent to the Governor’s Office.

Ms. Lawyer expressed her concerns with the local school divisions and the hiring of school security staff. Ms. Haymes shared that she has been working diligently in drafting a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for law enforcement officials and school resource officers. She stated that we have no statutory authority to mandate any particular MOA or over school resource officers when they are employees of local law enforcement. Every school division that uses seclusion and restraint must have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with their local law enforcement and policies to address in the MOU.

Ms. Germeyer shared that some localities are currently training their local law enforcement and asked if those local policies should be sent to VDOE. Ms. Haymes stated that if there are any policies out in the community, she would be glad to receive copies of those protocols.

Ms. Haymes asked Ms. Tracy Lee to share information from the “Classrooms not Courtroom” conference held last year. Ms. Lee shared that the conference included judges, parents, educational and law enforcement officials, and another conference will be held in July 2017.

Also mentioned, were the complexities on the local level between the school divisions and local law enforcement. Ms. Haymes stated that some school divisions do not use school resource officers, but use school employees for security.

Ms. Haymes explained that the USDE, Office of Civil Rights (OCR) had proposed some issues, such as religious and other issues, that could be considered a violation of student rights due to use of seclusion and restraint.

Ms. Hammond asked about the requirement of reporting. Ms. Haymes stated that it was left broad due to frequent changes in reporting and technology.

Supreme Court Decisions

- *Ms. Pat Haymes*

Ms. Haymes asked Ms. Williams and Ms. Siddiqui to feel free to join in the discussion. She shared two recent, significant court cases.

Fry vs. Napoleon Community Schools, consolidated, (commonly known as the “Wonder dog case”) involved a girl with cerebral palsy, and her parents (as prescribed) had gotten her a service dog named Wonder. She wanted to bring the dog, a Goldendoodle, with her to the school to provide a wide range of assistive accommodations to the student. This service dog was hypoallergenic but that issue did not come into play. The child had a one-on-one aide provided

by the school, so school administration stated she did not need the dog as the aide was capable of providing all necessary support. The parents pulled the student from the school for a year for home schooling. A year later, the school board agreed she could bring the dog to class, but would not allow the dog to perform the essential functions. The parents pulled the student and moved to another school district, and the student and dog were successful. Instead of doing a due process, the parents chose to file a lawsuit under the *Americans with Disabilities Act* (ADA). There was a clause that if this was educationally related and seeking monetary damages, they needed to exhaust all IDEA requirements and the court sent them back through the IDEA process. The Supreme Court decision stated that the outcome was agreed upon, but the pathway to the result was not preferred. There is a two-part consideration to determine if you have to go through the “exhaustive remedy” process or straight to court. First ask the question, if the child was in any other public facility would the child be afforded the same accommodations; e.g., like the child in a wheelchair needing a ramp to enter a library which is allowable under the ADA. However, if they had dyscalculia, they would not be required under the ADA to have a ramp. Secondly, had the parents attempted to go through the IDEA process versus filing suit under ADA, the issue of the service dog would have been resolved, however the case was sent down to the lower court under those terms. These cases will probably be rare in that it was obviously a clear violation to the ADA to restrict the service dog however it has opened doors for future litigation.

Ms. Haymes shared a second case, *Andrew F. v. Douglas County School District*, which examined the Riley Standard. She and three VDOE staff were in the courtroom when this case was argued before the Supreme Court. She shared that Mr. Millward was one of the staff members in attendance. Mr. Millward shared attending court was very impressive. Ms. Haymes shared that the environment was very hospitable and congenial.

She shared that this case involved a young man with Autism in an inclusive environment. His parents asked for more supports as the student’s behaviors were getting in the way of his educational progress. The parents placed the student in a private school which developed a Behavior Improvement Plan (BIP). The issue remaining was educational progress.

The court stated under *Rowley* (Board of Education of the Hendrick Hudson Central School District v. Rowley) something more than de minimus was required. It was a unanimous vote eight to one. The Rowley case was a girl with hearing impairment that was very intelligent and proficient in lip reading that asked the school system to provide a sign language instructor. The schools position was to provide sufficient education equal to their peers. The court stated that education is required as meaningful to each individual student and the uniform standard under individual. That there must be rigorous, sufficiently challenging, but not unrealistic, however based on the unique needs and achievable for that individual. The IEP team is expected to look at those factors and articulate their decisions and what they are based upon. Ms. Haymes stated that Rowley was not overturned, but rather explained. She stated that a significant burden is placed on schools. She stated that the VDOE focusing on school divisions to articulate their standards and writing rich IEPs. Ms. Haymes stated that she received an article this morning from the staff asking who won *Andrew F.* in light that this case was sent back to the lower court. She stated VDOE will keep the SSEAC posted on this.

There was a question concerning the Gavin Grim case. Ms. Haymes stated that due to the law changes by President Trump that case has now been sent back down to the lower court.

Constituency Reports

Adam Amick <i>People with Disabilities Rep</i>	No report.
Jill Becker <i>Juvenile Justice</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Working with behavior strategies and collaborating for training. Providing a registered behavior technician training this summer. 2. Requested VDOE audit and the follow-up review went very well.
Jack M. Brandt <i>People with Disabilities Rep</i>	No report.
Dr. Jeffrey D. Cassell <i>School Division Superintendent</i>	Division superintendents have participated in discussions and provided comments regarding the proposed seclusion and restraint regulations. They have also been active in the legislative process of the General Assembly relative to laws pertaining to all students.
Christy Evanko <i>Parent Rep, Region 1</i>	<p>Mr. Minarik read Ms. Evanko’s report in her absence.</p> <p>Henrico County Public Schools (HCPS) SEAC</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Developed a parent survey to hear parents’ perspective on discipline and the disproportionate discipline rate for students with a disability. The results are pending. 2. Met with HCPS SPED lead personal to gain more insight into the mental health and behavioral issues the county is facing. 3. Planning to conduct a focus group of parents seeking recommendations for changes to decrease the discipline rate for students. 4. At a recent meeting, a parent advocate broadcast the meeting via live feed on Facebook. When a presenter asked for questions from the floor, the meeting became very aggressive and the SEAC leadership team intervened to restore calm. Subsequently, some parents complained that the disruption was uncalled for. 5. Five sessions with presenters and five additional work sessions are planned. http://henricoschools.us/pdf/SupportServices/SEACProgramAgenda.pdf <p>Hanover County Public Schools (HCPS) SEAC</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reorganized its subcommittees this year to include Accessibility, Inclusive Education and Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS), Transition, Curriculum, and Bylaws and Communication. 2. Has hosted speakers addressing Inclusive Education (Ms. Christine Cadwallader, Representative of The Arc of New River Valley, from Montgomery County, Virginia, and the only county in Virginia that desegregated its special education system 30+ years ago), Transition (Mr. Scott Wilbur of Next Level Transition Consulting LLC and Valerie Wilbur, Esq.), Assistive Technology (Ms. Sharron Haggett from SamShines, LLC), and PBIS (Mr. Howard Ormond, VTSS State Coach, The Arc Hanover). 3. Public comments to date have addressed inclusive education, including the benefits of as well as the need for improvement of the rate and meaningfulness of Indicator 5/inclusive education for low incidence disability categories in HCPS. 4. In the process of reviewing and revising its bylaws and leveraging information gained during the VDOE/PEATC Local SEAC Training, Advanced Session. 5. Drafting its annual report of needs to the HCPS School Board. HCPS SEAC currently has 21 voting members and will be opening up its online application April 1 through May 15, 2017, for HCPS SEAC membership. Fifty plus applications were received last year.
Damon J. Garrison <i>Parent Rep, Region 2</i>	<p>Accomack County Public Schools (ACPS) SEAC</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planning for its next Special Education Annual Picnic.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Future PEATC Free Trainings for Parents–SEAC Chair, Eileen Holcomb requested those present to review the available PEATC workshops and indicate their interest in future training topics. They will attempt to have training at their future meetings in either March or April. 3. Reverse Inclusion for Preschool Classes–Ms. Dianne Gladstone, Director of Special Populations, reported that both Kegotank and Pungoteague elementary schools will be recruiting during kindergarten registration for general education preschool children to attend classes with special education preschool children. Kegotank is planning on adding a second reverse inclusion PreK class. Pungoteague has been challenged this year in securing and keeping general education peer mentors in their class. 4. Special Education Students and Graduation–Reporting 22 percent of their special education students did not graduate in 2014-2015, and attempting to increase parental awareness of available options for diplomas, the requirements, and future implications of each diploma type. Ms. Samantha Dobson, School Counselor, Arcadia High School, presented on available diploma options and the requirements for each. 5. POWERapp–Mrs. Pauline Milbourne, APCPS, Parent Resource Center Coordinator, demonstrated use of new mobile app tool (www.familysped.org/power) that can be downloaded to your cell phone by scanning the QR Code from the box that was provided with the USB Hub (may need to first download QR Code Reader app to phone before will read scan). This tool allows you mobile access to all the resources needed for any Special Education considerations and transitions, and could be extremely helpful and dynamic while participating in an IEP. Special Education teachers have been introduced to this tool and are to be providing parents with this resource whenever transitions are discussed.
<p>Christine Germeyer <i>Parent Rep, Region 4</i></p>	<p>Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) SEAC</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Held its fourth I'm Determined Youth and Parent Mini Summit on March 25, 2017, with more than 60 students and their families participating. 2. Next meeting is April 10, 2017, to review the annual plan. 3. DARS awarded FCPS a Project SEARCH Grant, one of 16 state grants to support Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs. Project SEARCH will begin in the 2017-2018 school year. An informational meeting is scheduled for March 29, 2017, at 7pm. A business is being sought to partner with FCPS for this program. 4. On March 14, 2017, FCPS received notification of division selection as a participant in Cohort 3 and the Autism Center for Excellence/VCU Grant. The first meeting will be in mid-April to discuss the next steps, and the first meeting with the entire team in May. <p>Clarke County Public Schools SEAC</p> <p>Hosting a Transition and Resource Fair emphasizing a holistic approach to adolescent transition for young people who experience disability April 5, 2017, from 6-7 p.m. in the high school auditorium. There will be a special presentation to discuss important legal issues for parents and guardians of special needs children to consider when transitioning to adulthood. Several agencies are planning to participate.</p> <p>Falls Church City Public Schools SEAC</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Next meeting April 3, 2017. 2. The school board approved funding for a special education review. 3. The Abilities Olympics will be held April 15, 2017, at James Madison University (JMU) in Godwin Hall. <p>Prince William County Public Schools SEAC (PWSEAC)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update bylaws.

2. Ms. Germeyer attended the January meeting and encouraged them to consider submitting their applications for the I'm Determined Summit.
3. The PWSEAC and Parent Resource Center (PRC) will be hosting an I'm Determined workshop on April 18, 2017, from 7-9 p.m.

Culpeper County Public Schools SEAC

1. Listened to a presentation on behavior management, conducting functional behavior assessments (FBAs), and implementing a behavioral intervention plan (BIP).
2. Special Games has been scheduled for May 8, 2017.

Loudoun County Public Schools SEAC

1. Next meeting April 5, 2017.
2. Hosting a transition event on April 6, 2017.
3. Are pleased with the *Specific Learning Disability Supplementary Guide, Dyslexia: Frequently Asked Questions* provided by the VDOE and look forward to the role out of the dyslexia teacher training module as a result of House Bill (HB) 842.
4. Discussing and voting on new SEAC Bylaws and any guidance that the SSEAC can provide regarding public comment, etc. would be helpful.

Warren County Public School (WCPS) SEAC

1. Hosting a resource fair on April 6, 2017.
2. WCPS is a recipient of a CTE program equipment grant.

Arlington SEAC (ASEAC)

1. Looking to recruit additional committee members as some parents are stepping out of their role.
2. Would like to record meetings and make them available to parents on the school website.
3. Would like to see more teachers trained in Orton-Gillingham instructional approach at Tuckahoe Elementary School. To date, nine teachers are trained and two more registered.

Fairfax County Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities (ACSD)

1. Hosting a special education conference on April 1, 2017, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Hayfield Secondary School.
2. FLASH FORWARD! Postsecondary Education and Employment Options will be held April 18, 2017, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Woodson High School.

Madison County Public School (MCPS) SEAC

1. Next meeting May 10, 2017.
2. MCPS received a CTE program equipment grant.

Page County Public Schools (PCPS) SEAC

1. Next meeting May 8, 2017, to review their annual plan.
2. PCPS received a CTE program equipment grant.

Rappahannock County Public Schools (RCPS) SEAC

Meeting on March 30, 2017, to review their annual plan.

Winchester Public Schools (WPS) SEAC

Next meeting April 3, 2017.

A constituent from Shenandoah County Public Schools expressed desire for more teachers trained in the Orton-Gillingham instructional method.

	<p>A Region 4 constituent expressed concerns about dual enrollment policies regarding attendance, disabilities, and grades that typically defer to the high school and county regulations. Community college seat time policy requires 15 hours in a classroom per semester for each course credit hour. Four credit hours per semester would equate to 60 hours of seat time required in a classroom during that semester. If the student has excused absences in excess of six days, the student may be forced to withdraw from all of their dual enrollment classes or receive a failing grade, regardless of the grade they actually earned. If the student drops below this number of required seat time hours, regardless of the reason or accommodations that exist, they may be told that there is no option, receive an incomplete, and be instructed that they must withdraw or will be given a failing grade. We need to closely evaluate the requirements so our students, particularly those with special needs, can successfully complete their dual enrollment courses without facing additional challenges.</p>
<p>Catherine King <i>Parent Rep, Region 6</i></p>	<p>Alleghany County SEAC–No report.</p> <p>Botetourt County Public School SEAC-Has held the following meetings during the 2016-2017 school year:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. November 1, 2016-Updates were provided by Mrs. King SSEAC member. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Julie Baker, Supervisor of Special Education, BCPS, provided updates on the VDOE Stakeholder meeting on restraint and seclusion that was held in Botetourt County. • Mrs. Baker showcased some schools and their disability history and awareness activities. • The featured presentation was on “Dyslexia-Part 1, An Overview for Parents and Teachers,” presented by Ms. Amy Kelly, School Psychologist, and Ms. Karen Turner, Special Education Coordinator of Intensive Reading Interventions. 2. December 1, 2016-Discussion was facilitated by Mrs. Baker with regard to possible topics for the last two meetings of the school year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team decided to try to arrange a Project SEARCH tour in March. • In addition, an organizational meeting will be scheduled for some time in June to make plans for the 2017-2018 school year. • The featured presentation was on “Dyslexia-Part 2, Strategies and Resources for Parents and Students,” by Ms. Amy Kelly, School Psychologist, and Karen Turner, Special Education Coordinator of Intensive Reading Interventions. • Mrs. Baker announced that BSCPs Central Academy Middle School (CAMS) is being selected as a co-teaching demonstration site for the state. 3. March 30, 2017-Planned an on-site tour and informational meeting of Project SEARCH and presentation of the annual plan. 4. June 2017-The 2017-2018 Organizational Meeting "to be scheduled." <p>Craig County Public Schools SEAC</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presentations from Blue Ridge Behavioral Health outlined services and eligibility information on Developmental Delay (DD) Waiver and Intellectual Disabilities (ID) Waiver. 2. A Blue Ridge Independent Living counselor discussed resources and services provided by their agency including functional assistance, vocational skills training, and support for families with children in school. 3. Announcements were made regarding pending Assistant Superintendents update, Center for Autism Research, and SEAC training. 4. Approved April agenda for new business includes election of new officers, I'm Determined presentation, and approval of local SPED Annual Plan. <p>Covington City Public Schools SEAC</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Held two meetings this calendar year.

- February 7, 2017—Discussed the local child find screenings and where they will be taking place, PreK and Kindergarten orientation, the December 1 Child Count (report), Covington Schools Literacy Plan, and the Education First Group. This is a group of community leaders from Covington City and Alleghany County who have partnered together to discuss the future of education in the area. Also, discussed the Alleghany Highlands Early Learning Partnership, the Annual Plan and Application for Federal Funds and finally the General Assembly Initiative and Laws that were being discussed.
 - March 21, 2017—Voted to approve the annual plan. Presentation by Mrs. King, Region 6 Parent Representative of the SSEAC. Presentation from ResCare Workforce Services, Western Virginia office. Other topics discussed were:
 - April 19-20, 2017, Ms. Nancy Phillips, Monitoring Specialist-Special Education, SEPI, SESS, VDOE, will visit Covington City Public Schools.
 - Current special education enrollment and school division enrollment, Child Find 2017 results so far, and a Results Driven Accountability (RDA) Meeting in Richmond on March 29, 2017, was attended by school staff and administration.
2. Next meeting April 25, 2017.

Danville Public Schools SEAC—No report.

Floyd County Public Schools SEAC

1. Reviewed State Council notes.
2. Worked on parent support and involvement, and how to build our SEAC.
3. Held a teacher appreciation luncheon at the school board office on March 17, 2017.
4. Reviewed the Annual Plan.
5. Supported our Inclusive Olympics event.

Franklin County Public Schools SEAC

1. SEAC is restructuring.
2. Bylaws are being reviewed and updating.
3. Have asked coordinators to target parents and guardians that may want to participate on the committee.
4. PRC and SEAC hosted Mr. Hank Millward, Director of SEFFE, SESS, VDOE, speaking on prior written notice.
5. Two members will attend PEATC'S SEAC trainings.

Henry County Public Schools SEAC

1. Safety-Care presentation by Ms. Bethney O'Connell, Autism Coordinator, HCPS, discussing the curriculum designed to provide a set of skills and strategies that allow staff in a variety of settings to safely and humanely provide support to individuals who may sometimes exhibit disruptive or dangerous behavior. Presentation by Da Capo Virginia. Music program offered in many of the SPED classes throughout the county.
2. Presentation by Infinity Acres Ranch that provides programs for adults with disabilities, veterans, Llama 4H, summer camp, day support program, and educational programs.
3. Presentation of the new HJDB Functional Life Skills and Job Training Skills Program-The Historic John D. Bassett Event Center has partnered with Henry County Public Schools allowing students to visit once or twice weekly to work on life skills such as bed making, washing/drying/folding laundry, ironing, cooking, vacuuming, table setting, and washing/drying dishes.
4. Presentation by the Disability Rights and Resource Center (DRRC).
5. Fall Games discussion for October 2017.

6. Rock Henry Buddy Ball Program-County special needs baseball team partners or "buddies" with one of our county high school baseball teams and the players "buddy" with our special needs players. The coordinator of the team, the high school assistant coach, and two of the varsity players spoke on what the program means to them.

Martinsville City Public Schools (MCPS) SEAC

1. Met February 9, 2017, and there was a presentation to parents on the age of majority by Mr. Ron Geiersbach, Due Process Services, ODRAS, SESS, VDOE.
2. Next meeting April 13, 2017. Ms. April Evans, CSA Coordinator, will present an overview of the Comprehensive Services Act (CSA) and the MCPS Annual Plan will be discussed.

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) SEAC

1. Ms. Cassie Fitzgerald, PRC Coordinator, shared Transition Fair success, and discussed the fair scheduled for April 6, 2016, at Christiansburg High. Thirty-five vendors are scheduled to attend.
2. Dr. Patricia Nelson, Director of Special Education, MCPS, presented the Annual Special Education Plan, line-by-line via Smart Board, for stakeholders to view and read. Dr. Nelson presented the Annual Plan April 19, 2016 to the Montgomery County School Board.
3. Dr. Sunghwan Jung, MCPS SEAC Chair, was to contact members who missed consecutive meetings,
4. New officers were elected.
5. New meeting dates were discussed and selected by the committee.
6. Technology Workshop information and a flyer were presented by Ms. Fitzgerald who will be sending out emails on the location. [Peachjar](#) (a subscription, web-based, program used to upload and distribute .pdf formatted, digital flyers) was also discussed as a means of new communication for MCPS.
7. PRC Open House keeps growing in attendance, and the community seems to enjoy the food, resources, and prizes.
8. Discussion of the new waivers training offered by New River Valley Community Services Board (NRVCSB) was discussed. ARC will present a webinar on new procedures, and Ms. Fitzgerald will be attending.
9. Dr. Jung will review applications and let Ms. Childress know how new members are presented to the school board office.
10. Dr. Julie Ligon, Supervisor of Special Education-Preschool and Elementary, MCPS, and Dr. Nelson discussed the LRE.
11. Also, discussed was that the IEP Team held meetings and made the decision of the continuum of services for students. The needs of students are met on the continuum of services offered by MCPS.
12. A goal of MCPS is to provide services to students for learning and intervention. Fun with Friends for early intervention, the Learning Labs, and Communication Labs that focus on intervention were discussed. The Learning Labs and Communication Labs that focus on challenging behaviors and communication needs are receiving excellent feedback from the community.
13. Dr. Nelson discussed that MCPS will complete an application for a three year grant program for Autism. She also discussed that MCPS is focusing on Co-Teaching Training districtwide. The training will focus in the elementary school this year and will grow over the next three years. Moreover, teachers will be reminded to complete the Special Education Survey.
14. Next meeting: PRC Open House on Thursday, November 10, 2017, from 4-6 p.m., at the Parent Resource Center located at 208 College Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073.

Patrick County Public Schools SEAC

1. Disability Rights & Resource Center (DRRC) brochure has been updated and ready to distribute.
2. Individuals from Patrick attended the T/TAC Conference for Assistive Technology in December 2016.
3. Ms. Ann Fulcher, Director of Special Education, PCPS, attended the VCASE Conference in Salem on February 23-24, 2017.
4. Teachers are scheduled to attend the Community of Leaders for Autism in Roanoke this spring.
5. Working with another division to train two teachers with the Orton-Gillingham reading program this summer.
6. Developing an Autism Team in Patrick County to offer support. Ms. Shannon S. Cockram, Speech/Language/Hearing Services Coordinator, PCPS, will be heading up this team.
7. Developing an Autism Technology Team in Patrick County. Ms. Jessica Young will be heading up this team.

Pittsylvania County Public Schools SEAC –

1. Met December 9, 2016, January 26, 2017 and February 24, 2017. Issues discussed:
 - Parent Advocacy for Special Education Services.
 - Parents agree they are always learning about special education. They need more resources and information available about disabilities and how to address a child’s educational needs at school and at home.
 - Parents agree they want to become more aware of special education law and what are appropriate educational services for their child.
 - Parents agree and understand how important it is to approach meetings with special education teachers and administrators in a certain manner, i.e., to be respectful and polite, to foster cooperation.
 - Parents believe that for them to be better informed about special education, to know how to approach school personnel and officials about special education issues or concerns, and to have the support of other parents, a special education PRC is needed.
 - The establishment of a PRC is the number one priority and chosen initiative for the 2016-2017 school year, and an establishment plan is under consideration.
 - Attendance at SEAC Meetings, desired increase in attendance as some meetings attendance was minimal, and attempts to schedule meetings at more accommodating times has not increase attendance. Parents suggest that school principals only select a SEAC representative at their school who understands the time commitment.
 - Pittsylvania County as an Inclusive Community for People with Disabilities— Parents agree that the county has made some progress and needs to continue in that area. Parents agree the establishment of a PRC will be an important step in that direction.
 - Next Meeting April 21, 2017.

Roanoke City Public Schools SEAC—No report.

Roanoke County Public School (RCPS) SEAC

1. In Roanoke County Public Schools (RCPS), we have had various presentations this school year including the following:
 - Mr. Gary Gibson from DARS.
 - Mr. Joe LeGualt, Coordinator of English/RCPS On-line, supervising the RCPS Literacy Plan.
 - Mr. Ben Williams, Director of Testing and Remediation, RCPS, presented an overview of the SOL results for students with disabilities.

	<p>2. The PRC is hosting a PRC Expo at our next meeting. Parents will learn about the resources available through the PRC and in the community. The following information will be shared with our participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Guides based on Individual Disability • Parent Home Activities • Barton Reading and Spelling System • Community Brochures • Tutor List • PRC Monthly Newsletter and Activity Sheets (PreK to High School) • Books based on Individual Disability • IEP Checklist • Manipulatives • Interactive CDs and DVDs • Transition Guides • Magazines based on Individual Disability • Educational information individually bagged <p>3. Mrs. Courtney Pugh, Early Childhood Family Support Specialist, PEATC spoke to the committee on “How to Conduct Friendly IEP Meetings.”</p> <p>Salem City Schools SEAC –Report dating from December 2016 to date.</p> <p>1. The Salem City Schools SEAC met January and March 2017.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the January meeting, Dr. Jennings presented to the committee a review of the Orton-Gillingham instructional method for dyslexia. Over the past summer, teachers from Salem and other regions participated in the Orton-Gillingham instruction. • Also, the committee requested a trip to the Virginia Tech Training and Technical Advisory Center in April, 2017. This trip will encompass the last scheduled SEAC meeting of the school year. <p>2. The SEAC met on March 22, 2017.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Scott Habeeb, Principal of Salem High School, presented information about the future renovations for Salem High School. • Dr. Jennings updated information about Orton-Gillingham instruction. Thirteen teachers from the region and two from City of Salem Schools will participate in the Regional Orton-Gillingham instruction this summer. • SEAC confirmed plans to meet in Blacksburg at the Virginia Tech Training and Technical Advisory Center on April 26, 2017. The committee will meet and tour T/TAC. This meeting will include a brief review of the Annual Plan. The committee will also decide on its theme for the next school year. Per Dr. Jennings' suggestion, the theme for next year would include Early Childhood Education. The potential theme being, "Prepare for the Future." This theme will be used for SEAC events and for the school board central office bulletin board for Disabilities Awareness Month.
<p>Matthew Luther <i>State Agency Rep</i></p>	<p>DARS, Division of Rehabilitative Services (DRS), hired eight Pre-ETS Counselors to serve the six districts across the Commonwealth. There is one current vacant Pre-ETS Counselor Position for the Blue Ridge District-Lynchburg Office.</p>
<p>Alison MacArthur <i>Teacher Rep</i></p>	<p>Some of the concerns heard from teachers across the state:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Concerns with what will happen with new administration and the push for vouchers (or vouchers in disguise). 2. Consistency with IEPs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online IEP System? 3. Concerns with time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited time to focus on lesson planning with team teachers to provide a cohesive model of team teaching,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special education teachers being pulled for meetings during planning period, and • Limited time to complete paperwork during planning time due to being pulled for different meetings and/or coverage. <p>4. Heavy caseloads across the state.</p>
Tashue Mason <i>Parent Rep, Region 8</i>	No report.
Erica Midboe <i>Transition Rep</i>	<p>I was invited to tour the Program for Employment Preparedness (PEP) in Arlington County. They currently have six teachers, nine paraprofessionals, and 49 students. The students learn academics, life skills, and job skills. They have in-house internships three days a week, which are their office squad, greenhouse, and lunch services programs. Through this highly acclaimed program, students gain skills they will need to become competitively employed. On-third of last year graduates are currently working.</p> <p>Their in-house internships are fully functioning businesses that generate revenue to be used at the discretion of the PEP program. As businesses, the students are subject to real world issues, such as advertising and code compliance. The office squad prepares documents, prints, and laminates for a variety of countywide businesses and schools. The lunch service requires students work in a restaurant grade kitchen that is subject to unannounced county health inspections.</p> <p>In addition to its in-house internships, the PEP program has 23 partnerships and 40 different worksites throughout Arlington. They include Marymount University, Ft. Meyer, The Pie Life, Sugar Shack, Marriott, Great Harvest Breads, APS Human Resources, Costco, Culpepper Gardens, and others.</p> <p>The PEP program is housed in a multiuse building with a wide variety of programs and individuals of different ages coming and going. It is a very natural environment to learn to work.</p> <p>The PEP program was honored at a proclamation ceremony on March 7, 2017, to acknowledge its work and success transitioning individuals with disabilities from the school to the community. It has been the subject of three newspaper articles in less than one year:</p> <p>http://www.insidenova.com/news/arlington/arlington-employment-preparedness-school-initiative-wins-honors/article_866a4dae-0d72-11e7-a4b6-f7115e4fadd4.html</p> <p>http://www.insidenova.com/news/arlington/student-achievements-lauded-at-pep-graduation-ceremony/article_bd3b3010-36e9-11e6-8672-3ff0c4a897be.html</p> <p>https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/using-poetry-to-give-young-adults-with-disabilities-a-voice/2016/06/12/d8782300-2f3d-11e6-9b37-42985f6a265c_story.html?utm_term=.c5b20f1176b9</p> <p>The PEP program was created by a joint committee of parents and educators, and has been a success. PEP has expressed interested in having a representative from VDOE to come and tour it. It is interested in becoming a model site for other counties.</p> <p>It was discussed with community stakeholders even with the success of the PEP program, there are not a lot of good choices for programs or jobs after students leave. It was noted that nonprofits must work with individuals from transitioning age throughout old age, and it is hard to focus efforts on job placements. The state needs a multiagency approach to provide money for something that focuses only on job training and placement. If this is already happening, there needs to be more information and more linkage. For example, state agencies don't do intake until a student has already transitioned. It would be helpful if there was overlap, so that state agencies can get to know the students while they are in their last year of school.</p>
Darren Minarik <i>Higher Ed Rep</i>	<p>1. Radford University's (RUs) Special Education program area is offering expanded course and funding opportunities to increase the number of qualified licensed special educators within school divisions, including general education teachers seeking concurrent licensure. Our coursework emphasizes inclusive educational practices and our students are prepared with the collaboration and leadership skills necessary to advocate for best practices in inclusive education.</p>

	<p>Ms. Taylor Flavin, a 2016 graduate from Radford University’s fifth year master’s program, is an elementary special education teacher in Waynesboro City. She was featured in local news for her efforts to create more inclusive opportunities for students with disabilities in her school. Ms. Flavin represents one of a number of recent RU graduates making an immediate impact on inclusive practices in the Commonwealth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · http://www.newsleader.com/story/news/2017/01/09/first-year-teacher-revolutionizes-special-ed-wenonah/96380120/ · http://www.newsleader.com/videos/news/2017/01/10/friendships-led-flavin-become-inclusive-special-education-teacher/96388932/ · http://www.newsleader.com/story/news/local/2017/01/11/ending-old-school-way-teaching-special-ed/96445084/ <p>2. Recent RU Faculty Publications that Support Inclusive Practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blanks, B. & Friedman, A. (April, 2017). Co-teaching in rural middle schools: An exploration. <i>Special Educator e-Journal</i>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This article addresses the benefits and challenges of co-teaching in rural education settings and was co-authored with a graduate who completed the special education masters degree with teacher licensure in K-12 General and Adapted Curriculum. • Minarik, D., and Blevins, M. (2017). “Going full retard”: Teaching about disability through film. In W. Russell & S. Waters (Eds.). <i>Cinematic social studies: A resource for teaching and learning social studies with film</i> (pp. 101-128). Charlotte, NC: Information Age. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This book chapter addresses how to use film in an inclusive general education social studies classroom as a tool to address disability stigmas and stereotypes. The chapter was co-authored with a recent graduate of our secondary social studies program. <p>3. Recent Workshops and Presentations Addressing Inclusive Practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Minarik presented <i>SIMply amazing ways to address disability and collaboration topics</i> at the Strategic Instruction Model (SIM™) Southeast Update. Charleston, SC, March 2017. This session examined how Content Enhancement Routines are modeled in multiple special education courses to support collaboration and inclusive instructional practices in the general education classroom. • Mr. Minarik presented <i>Teaching about disability through film</i> during the meeting of the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS), Washington, DC, December 2016. This session addressed how film impacts perceptions of disability, examining how to use film as a tool to address negative perceptions and stereotypes that impact students with disabilities. • Dr. Brooke Blanks, Assistant Professor in Special Education, RU, presented a session on engaging families during the What Really Works in Education 2017 Conference at California State University-Northridge. • Radford University held a VDOE Traineeship grant funded workshop, "What Works in Inclusive Math Strategies," with Dr. Sarah Nagro, Assistant Professor, George Mason University (GMU), March 13, 2017. There were 50 teacher participants from Regions 6 and 7. <p>4. Virginia Council for Learning Disabilities (VCLD) Spring Symposium is April 1, 2017. Radford University has three presentations on the program led by Dr. Blanks and eight RU graduate students on inclusive lesson planning, inclusive secondary reading strategies, and inclusive math.</p>
<p>Lisa Richard <i>Parent Rep, Region 7</i></p>	<p>Bristol SEAC</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Medicaid Waiver regional representative spoke to address concerns about the changes to the waiver. 2. Challenger Baseball league started by Bristol little league. 3. Transition Fair.

	<p>Radford City Public Schools SEAC</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Co-hosted a Transition Fair on March 22, 2017, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with representatives from New River Valley Disability Center, New River Community College (NRCC), DARS, Goodwill Industries, and information provided by New River Valley Community Services Board, Radford PRC, and the U.S. Social Security Administration for families to obtain information about available transition services and how to access those services. 2. February 21, 2017, co-hosted a Family Night with presentations (and dinner funded) by T/TAC on “I’m Determined” and the upcoming summer Youth Summit with participation encouraged. <p>Pulaski County Public Schools SEAC</p> <p>Planning a parent meeting for mid-May with a former Pulaski County High School student who has written a book with his and his grandmother’s perspective of the life of a student on the spectrum.</p>
<p>Lora Smith <i>Social Services</i></p>	<p>The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), DFS staff have been meeting for the past ten months as part of a workgroup comprised of VDOE, legal justice non-profit and special education attorneys, and CSA staff, to review and update the Joint Guidance regarding Educational Stability and the incorporation of the new <i>Every Student Succeeds Act</i> (ESSA) requirements. Part of the work has focused on clarifying procedures around conducting best interest determinations, school enrollment processes and the coordination of transportation for students who remain in their school of origin. We have also fielded many inquiries from localities on how to best coordinate and plan for school stability for students who have IEPs, and regularly staff cases in collaboration with our VDOE and special education attorney workgroup partners to ensure that accurate and up-to-date information is provided to our local Department of Social Services (LDSS) offices. We recently established a point of contact list with Educational Stability Liaisons in each locality. These individuals have been designated to assist with implementing ESSA requirements, liaising with the school division counterparts (Foster Care Liaisons), and in general, ensuring school stability is prioritized for each child at their agency. Following publication of the Joint Guidance, VDSS and VDOE will provide inter-agency trainings on updated educational stability practice, including ESSA provisions, to school divisions, LDSS, court staff and other stakeholder groups throughout the state.</p>
<p>Brian Summo <i>Private School Rep</i></p>	<p>Mr. Minarik read Mr. Summo’s report submitted in absentia. The Virginia Association of Independent Specialized Education Facilities (VAISEF) annual Spring Conference, “The Era of Accountability: Enhancing our Professional Practices,” will be held April 6-7, 2017, in Williamsburg, Virginia. Email brian.summo@centrahealth.com if interested in attending.</p>
<p>Joan Sumner <i>Parent Rep, Region 3</i></p>	<p>Northumberland County Public Schools SEAC</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Working to establish a Parent Resource Center at the high school. Working to build membership in all three schools, i.e., elementary, middle and high; and, principals from each school have been attending SEAC meetings. 2. Members will be attending the rising ninth-grade student and parent orientation in an effort to reach out to new parents interested in SEAC membership. 3. The Department of Social Services provided information on training workshops for teachers and parents of students who have experienced trauma. 4. Members attended a DARS sponsored Transition Fair in March. <p>Lancaster County Public Schools SEAC-Submission by Ms. Katie Bavuso, Secretary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met in February 2017 • Discussed moving all PRC resources to the community library, various aspects of the transition fair, and the possibility of SEAC training. • No educational events scheduled at this time.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main concern is lack of participation and involvement from parents as meetings and events have been poorly attended despite advertisement and invitation. <p>King William (KW) SEAC-Submitted by Ms. Amber Brooks, Chair</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Working on their annual report Seeking to start a PRC Recommending to the superintendent a more comprehensive annual training for staff regarding special education policies and procedures. The KW SEAC is concerned with the lack of knowledge not only among parents, but staff as well. KW SEAC would like to see training for parents and staff through workshops to improve the education of students receiving services.
<p>Wylls VanDerwerker <i>Special Education Director</i></p>	<p>Virginia Council of Administrators for Special Education (VCASE) members are looking forward to the Spring 2017 “Improving Student Outcomes: Language, Literacy and Learning” conference. The conference will open with an inspirational and motivational presentation by Mr. Brett Leake. Dr. Devin Kearns will present on “Improving Outcomes for Students with Dyslexia.” Mr. John Eisenberg, Assistant Superintendent will also present an update on VDOE special education related items/initiatives.</p>
<p>Jacqui Wilson <i>Parent Rep, Region 5</i></p>	<p>Amherst County SEAC</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Hosting a parent educational workshop on internet and social media safety in April. It will be geared toward teaching parents how to keep their students safe. We will be partnering with the HERO club from the High School, who will be working with students who come. They are planning some inclusion activities. SEAC continuing to work on developing bylaws. Continuing to work with parents of SWDs who will be moving from closing elementary school next year into new schools. Amherst County will have three SWDs attending I'm Determined this year. <p>No report from any other SEAC in Region 5.</p>
<p>Suzanne Bowers <i>PEATC</i></p>	<p>Ms. Nichole Drummond gave report on behalf of Ms. Bowers' who was absent. As the Parent Training and Information Center for Virginia, we serve the entire Commonwealth through one-on-one intakes with families and professionals, workshops and trainings, webinars, and various outreach initiatives. We have offices in Springfield, Hampton, Charlottesville, Yorktown, Tazewell, and Salem.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are in the process of confirming dates and locations for our VDOE/PEATC co-sponsored trainings in 2017 (see the attached flyer or www.peatc.org). Be sure to subscribe to our listserv, Facebook, and twitter pages to register for the upcoming events. PEATC has two staff members who have completed their training and are now certified Bullying Prevention Specialists through the American School Counselors Association. This allows them to expand their bullying prevention expertise into the area of cyberbullying. Please watch for new trainings and factsheets provided by PEATC around all areas of bullying. PEATC has five staff members who have completed their training and are now certified to provide a youth curriculum that is modeled after a research-based, restorative justice program that teaches today's youth to make better decisions in their lives when faced with potential situations that could lead to negative behaviors. PEATC hopes to provide this training to middle and high school students around the Commonwealth. PEATC has released various “Information Briefs” to help explain the changes that may affect families who have children with disabilities. These changes include highlights of the White House budget, HR 610, and changes to Medicaid. Please visit our website to access this information.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEATC hosted our first of hopefully many “Orton-Gillingham Classroom Educator’s Course for Parents.” This 30-hour class was the first step to completing a classroom educator or Associate Level accreditation. The course was facilitated by Ms. Mary Stowe, Project Specialist, William and Mary School of Education, T/TAC, and instructor, Ms. Dawn M. Nieman, who is an Orton-Gillingham Practitioner and Fellow at the Orton-Gillingham Academy. • Family Support Specialists are available to speak with families regarding their individual cases regarding special education in Virginia. Please be sure to call if you need assistance. • Provided a handout on upcoming VDOE/PEATC events.
<p>Heidi Lawyer <i>Virginia Board for Disabilities</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The application for Partners in Policymaking, a leadership and advocacy training program, has been extended until April 14, so please let people know that they can still apply. 2. The Board has been meeting with agency and organizational partners including VDOE, DARS, PEATC, the Department for the Blind and Visual Impaired (DBVI) and the Virginia Foundation for Health Youth to examine its Youth Leadership Forum in order to be able to improve recruitment and reach more students as well as to assess potential collaborative training and funding. 3. The Board has completed work on the two Disability Assessment Briefs for 2017. These are on Education and Employment. They are in the editing phase and will be released by the end of June 2017. 4. The Board released a new competitive RFP to request proposals in the areas of housing, employment, healthcare and self-advocacy. The deadline to submit a Letter of Interest is April 24.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

Friday, March 31

Committee Members:

Mr. Adam Amick
Mrs. Jill Becker
Ms. Suzanne Bowers, Ex-officio (Absent)
Mr. Jack M. Brandt (Absent)
Dr. Jeffrey D. Cassell
Mrs. Christy Evanko, Secretary
Mr. Damon J. Garrison
Mrs. Christine Germeyer
Mrs. Catherine King
Ms. Heidi L. Lawyer, Ex-officio
Mr. Matthew Luther
Ms. Alison MacArthur, Vice Chair
Ms. Tashue Mason (Absent)
Mrs. Erica Midboe (Absent)
Mr. Darren W. Minarik, Chair
Ms. Lisa Richard
Ms. Lora Smith
Mr. Brian Summo (Absent)

Ms. Joan Sumner
Mr. Wyllys D. VanDerwerker
Ms. Jacqui Wilson

VDOE Representatives:

Mr. John Eisenberg
Ms. Pat Haymes
Mrs. Tracy Lee
Mr. Hank Millward
Mr. Jeff Phenicie
Ms. Denise A. Throckmorton (Recording)

Other Participants:

Ms. Nichole Drummond, Parent Educational
Advocacy Training Center (PEATC)

Other Guests:

Ms. Beth Haw

Call to Order

Ms. Alison MacArthur called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

Presentations

Overview of Virginia's Risk Ratio Calculations used with Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS)

- *Mr. Jeff Phenicie, Interim Director, Office of Special Education Program Improvement*

There are four major areas that contribute to the risk ratio: Identification in Special Education, Identification by Disability, Placement, and Discipline (suspension, etc.). The Federal Government recently came out with more mandated guidance on the ratio, so it is necessary to garner input from stakeholders. Mr. Phenicie presented the information and will ask for input from this Committee.

Subcommittee Meetings

The subcommittees met to discuss and provide feedback on CEIS survey questions, especially with respect to reasonable progress.

Questions regarding reasonable progress include:

1. Do we offer the flexibility?
2. If so, what progress is reasonable (i.e., 0.01, 0.10, 0.25, other)?

3. Is there a ceiling to the flexibility?
4. If so, what is the recommended ceiling?
5. Does the year above the ceiling make a difference?
6. Should we have a different rule for coming off the list?

Each member provided separate survey feedback to the department, but the committees discussed the issues in group.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Jeff Phenicie has been named the Director of the Office of Special Education Program Improvement (SEPI). The State IEP system has been approved and the contractor is PCG (IEP Online, Easy IEP). Mr. Phenicie will lead that program. The system will not be mandatory, and local education agencies will be faded in. This system will help VDOE analyze real time data.

The final review on restraint and seclusion was completed and is going to the Governor's office, the Secretary of Education, Attorney General, and Office of Planning and Budget. When it comes back, there will be additional public hearings. This process can take anywhere from one to eight years.

ESSA Regulations were repealed, but the statute that congress passed is still on the books. The Commonwealth will file a letter of statute rather than regulations. An accountability plan will still be filed. There will be public comment solicited prior to its submission in September.

Mr. Eisenberg noticed that the child count numbers increased recently and there will need to be some exploration as to why and what to do. Some funds may be diverted from T/TAC to focus on recruitment and retention as there is a shortage of and decline in the teaching profession—especially with respect to special education. An online course through Radford University will be offered to increase the number of persons who can provide special education services in an emergency situation.

Public Comment Review

Members discussed the public comment. Individuals who provided public comment are assured that their commentary will be used, when and as appropriate, to inform and plan the recommendations that will be made by the SSEAC to the Virginia Board of Education through the VDOE Superintendent of Public Instruction. Additionally, as deemed necessary, individuals who made public comment will receive follow-up from the appropriate VDOE staff member.

Future Meeting Agenda Discussion

Future agenda topics include:

- FOIA Update (for the July 2017 SSEAC meeting, a new members training with the executive committee on Wednesday; and, a refresher presented for all on Thursday)
- Continuing discussion on Public Comment Guidelines especially as related to video comments

- Diploma updates (part of Assistant Superintendent's Report)
- Project Move (part of the Assistant Superintendent's Report)
- Update on Richmond Charter School
- Youth and Parent Summit update
- VAISEF Presentation (future)
- Online IEP System updates (part of the Assistant Superintendent's Report)
- Follow up on Pre-ETS

Adjourn

Ms. Evanko made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Amick seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.