

**Arlington Special Education Advisory Committee  
Minutes  
October 23, 2018**

Members Present:

Wendy Pizer (Chair), Nadia Facey (Vice-Chair), Nick Walkosak (Co-Secretary), Margy Dunn (Co-Secretary), Amber Baum, John Best, Michelle Best, Caitlin Davies, Kristin Gillig, Jay Hamon, Kay Luzius, Kurt Schuler, Tauna Szymanski (via phone), Minerva Trudo, and Cristina Yacobucci

Members Absent:

Alison Acker, Alison Dough, Leila Carney, Keith Channon, Jennifer Johnson, Sarah Jane Owens, and David Rosenblatt

Staff:

Paul Jamelske (Director of Special Education),  
Kathleen Donovan (Parent Resource Center)  
Kelly Mountain (Parent Resource Center)

Guests:

Nicole Davidson, Nada Alzahrani, Victoria Strange, Casey McLellan, Angel Lopez, Madelynne Delon, Michaela Reardon, Zeyna McDuin, Lillian Tousley, Sami Eghtesadi

**AGENDA:**

<b>Agenda Items</b>	<b>Discussion/Decisions</b>	<b>What to do/who/when</b>
Welcome		
Wendy Pizer	Welcome and introductions	
Public Comments		
	No public comments made in person or received via email	
Nadia Facey (ASEAC Vice Chair) – Special Education Program Evaluation Update		

	<p>There was a kickoff meeting put on by the contractor (PCG) on 10/4/18 that leadership of both ASEAC and SEPTA were able to attend.</p> <p>Survey letters went out targeting parents of elementary students with IEPs and 504s, students in middle or high school with an IEP, and students in middle or high school with a 504 plan.</p> <p>Nadia thanked all the parents who offered feedback. APS staff will complete the survey between 10/29 and 11/19/18.</p> <p>The PCG staff is not local, but they will be onsite twice in November for case studies, observations, focus groups, and to attend the ASEAC meeting on November 27, 2018.</p>	
--	--	--

Wendy Pizer (ASEAC Chair) – Updates

	<p>Future meeting topics were presented: for November the Program Evaluation and PCG, and for December remarks from Dr. Patrick Murphy, but the main topic is still TBD (possibly the inclusion policy or visioning for student support/ATSS).</p> <p>ACI Update: Participation of non-voting members has come into question. A 2013 bylaw was written restricting the participation in meetings to voting members, and it has recently been enforced, drawing attention to the ability of non-voting members to have their voices heard at meetings. A letter was recently sent asking a reconsideration of this bylaw. In the meantime, SEPTA is a voting member. Therefore if you have a question you want to pose to ACI, tell your school representative or SEPTA to voice your question.</p> <p>GSAC and World Languages gave a report. GSAC wants to work with ASEAC on the issue of twice exceptional (2E) students not receiving accommodations in advanced or language classes. The question about how to tackle this problem was posed to ASEAC. Cristina Yacobucci suggested finding out how many 2E students are in the system as a starting point, and Nadia Facey asked OSE if they can send some best practices to individual schools and administrators/SE coordinators. Paul Jamelske acknowledged that Students with Disabilities (SWDs) are under-represented in advanced classes and world languages, not just in APS, but nationwide. There have been communications to support the consideration of SWDs participating in advanced classes and world languages. Late January and early February is when students register for courses for the next year (in middle and high school), so it would be good to raise the awareness of this issue to the counseling staff at middle and high schools soon. Caitlin Davies asked if we could have a causal analysis done to see where the problem is. Sometimes there is a misunderstanding on the part of an individual school's administration that students can receive support in these classes. Michelle Best suggested it could be a resource issue for a school, and perhaps more</p>	
--	--	--

	<p>thinking outside the box about when and how support is provided to a student (i.e., executive functioning support).</p>	
<p>Paul Jamelske - Office of Special Education (OSE) Update</p>		
	<p><u>OSE Responding to Public Comments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were no Public Comments in October.</li> </ul>	
<p>Paul Jamelske (OSE) – Annual Planning Update</p>		
	<p>Paul presented slides both general in nature and some specific.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· APS is trying to tie the mission and vision back to what happens day to day in classrooms. Core values should be things we live everyday. Equity and inclusion is represented in the vision and values.</li> <li>· The Department of Teaching and Learning (DTL) has their own mission and vision that is in line with that of APS.</li> <li>· The newly adopted Strategic Plan (2018-2024) has several major goal areas: success, well-being, engaged work force, operational excellence, partnerships. The School Board (SB) action plan and priorities are adopted every year and posted on the APS website under SB.</li> <li>· New schools coming online: Fleet Elementary, HB Woodlawn building (not named yet), Montessori program, and new middle school.</li> <li>· Slides of data and demographics were presented about SWD. SWD population is hovering in 14%. The most current official data is 2016-2017. Unofficially, as of 10/2018, the number is 15.4%, so the SWD population has gone up for 2017-2018 by 1%. Caitlin Davies asked if Paul knew if there was a way to find out what the percentage of new IEPs is from new incoming students versus existing APS students being identified. Paul is not sure if this information could be extracted from synergy.</li> <li>· Federal Indicators (on the VDOE website) – there are 14 indicators. APS failed indicator 11 (timeline for Part B eligibility of 65 business days) so there is more work to be done in this area. Also still failing indicator 5a.</li> <li>· Planning for the Future – APS is combining ATSS, Section 504 and IEP processes. Visioning work is ongoing with Kelly Krug and multiple other participants from OSE, Student Services, the entire DTL and multiple schools. There will be a revised combined procedure manual.</li> <li>· Question and Answer period. We need placed in every school a brief IEP process for parents with the names and contacts on it if they have questions, as well as a sheet for parents about</li> </ul>	

	<p>who to contact if they have an issue. On the PRC website there is a family resource for IEPs. Perhaps parents can partner with liaisons to – OSE would welcome some ideas as it is hard to simplify the process in a flow chart. Plus there is a big change to the process coming online next year that it would likely have to be redone if we come up with something right now. Amber Baum asked how the strategic goals are used in performance evaluations for staff and if it is reported. Paul said that data is sent to the state for APS and not broken down by school or staff members. Nadia Facey noted that the indicator data can be publically accessed on the VDOE website.</p>	
<p>Open Discussion Period and Working Groups</p>		
<p>Meeting Adjourned</p>	<p>Meeting Adjourned at 851, working groups continued to meet after adjournment</p>	

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, November 27th 2018 from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
 Syphax Education Center, 2110 Washington Blvd, Room 456, Arlington, VA 22204