

Arlington Special Education Advisory Committee
MINUTES
 December 13, 2022
 All Virtual - on Zoom

See Appendix for the Zoom chat.

ASEAC Members:

First Name	Last Name	Present?/ ALL virtual meeting	Vote on September 2022 meeting minutes	Vote on November 2022 meeting minutes	Vote on which other meeting to hold all virtually
Claudia	Ramirez Cuellar				
David	Rosenblatt				
David	Siu	Yes	y	y	y
Ellen	Fitzenrider				
Emily	Remus				
Jennifer	Wheelock	Yes	y	y	y
Kathryn	Pericak	Yes	y	y	y
Keith	Chanon				
Kristin	Gillig	Yes	y	y	?
Kurt	Schuler	Yes	y	y	y
Laura	Bryant Njanga				
Matt	Leland	Yes	abstain	abstain	
Michelle	Best				
Minerva	Trudo	Yes	y	y	y
Nicholas	Walkosak	Yes	y	y	y
Paige	Shevlin	Yes	?	?	
Paul	Timm				
Raquel	Cepelak				
Rebecca	Hunter	Yes	?	?	

Motion made to approve minutes, and seconded: Minutes approved.

Non-Member Attendees

Virtual	Kathleen Donovan, Kelly Krug, Heather Rothenbuescher, Corina Coronel, Meaza Hagos, Janna Dressel, Emily Hicks, Jenn Seiff, Mark Scarano, Mary Kadera, Cecelia Kline, Troy Anthony, Gina DeSalvo, Jacqueline, Vicki Taylor, Mheret Keflai, May Hago, Tom (?), user of *18142330223
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Welcome

Agenda

- 7:00 - 7:20 pm Welcome and Public Comments
- 7:20 - 7:30 pm OSE Updates and Response to November Public Comments
- 7:30 - 8:00 pm Discussion with Corina Coronel, Summer School Coordinator
- 8:00 - 8:20 pm Updates from ASEAC working groups
- 8:20 - 8:30 pm Parent Resource Center updates
- 8:30 - 9:00 pm ASEAC Business, Updates

Meeting opened at: 7:03 PM

Public Comments

Jennifer Wheelock

Good evening. I'm Jennifer Wheelock and I'm speaking tonight on compensatory services in light of the recent Fairfax resolution.

For awareness, the US Department of Education's Office of Civil rights just reached a resolution with Fairfax, finding that Fairfax:

- Reduced and placed limits on special education instruction based on considerations other than student need. Likewise in APS, teams met for every student in the fall of 2020 and reduced hours based on the reduced school schedule and not based on need. Our PWN noted that we objected to those reductions. Likewise, we were later told that certain services could not be offered on Mondays because those were "teacher workdays".
- Additionally, OCR found that Fairfax inaccurately indicated that compensatory services were not owed to students because school divisions were not at fault. I recall from a similar discussion at ASEAC last fall that guidance from the state indicated

these were “recovery services” rather than compensatory services and districts were not at fault. This directly contradicts guidance from the US Department of Education.

· Lastly, Fairfax failed to develop and implement a plan adequate to remedy instances in which SWDs were not provided FAPE during remote learning. Like Fairfax, APS has provided shockingly few students with compensatory services. Last January, OSE indicated that about 330 students had been provided compensatory services related to pandemic school closures. I believe APS has about 5000 students with disabilities, including about 4200 with IEPs.

My questions are:

1) How many students in total have now received compensatory services related to pandemic school related closures? How many hours in total have been provided? Does APS know how many students may have been denied compensatory services whose families may have requested them?

2) This past summer, the US department of education hosted a webinar indicating the compensatory services may still be owed, including if schools stayed remoted in the 2020-2021 school year. They were particularly clear in their view that federal ESSER funds were made available for this purpose. In light of that guidance, is APS still offering compensatory services related to pandemic school closures? In light of the recent Fairfax resolution which echoes the experience of too many APs families, will APS voluntarily assess all SWDs for compensatory services related to pandemic related school closures?

OSE Updates & Response to November Public Comments

Masking

OSE does not oversee guidance regarding masking, but did share concerns plus a recent article to relevant departments. Legal counsel, school safety, and management.

Advocates

The Office of Special Education (OSE) does not have the authority or purview to provide outside advocates to families. That is a family decision. OSE supports families and provides mediation.

OSE does not assign outside advocates to families. Nor does OSE have funding to help families with the process of hiring external advocates. OSE does offer support to families through the process of determining if an IEP is needed and what an IEP can contain. If asked by families, OSE staff can participate in IEP meetings with families to help support them through the process. The Parent Resource Center (PRC) can also work with families and can help them through the process. The Parent Resource Center

can also be a resource for families, and can be reached at 703.228.7239 and prc@apsva.us

Tuckahoe, Compensatory Services and Tracking SPED Services

In general there is no specific regulation regarding compensatory services. Teams are encouraged to look through a variety of lenses. Compensatory services are not always hour for hour. Compensatory services are determined by need and can't double dip with current services.

OSE works with Tuckahoe on continuing concerns. APS does track certain hours in related service fields for medicaid requirements, but not for other SPED services. APS does not have a centralized system for tracking hours of all SPED services. APS and OSE look to schools and case carriers to keep track of hours not being implemented. At this time APS does not track hours implemented and not implemented for all students, and lacks the capacity to do this.

OSE Updates

Student Support Manual will be translated in all 4 major languages.

Eligibility Worksheets have been posted in all 5 major languages.

Discussion with APS Summer School Coordinator, Corina Coronel

Differences between Summer School and Extended School Year services:

Summer School vs Extended School Year (ESY) Services vs Compensatory Services
ESY is not the same thing as summer school and is only aligned to the specific IEP goals identified.

IEP team determines eligibility based on data that indicates that the student's progress will be **significantly jeopardized** if the student does not receive ESY

Only for a student with an IEP with **critical life skills** and who meet **at least one** of the following qualities.

- Regression/recoupment
- Degrees of progress
- Emerging or breakthrough skills
- Interfering behaviors
- Nature and severity of disability

- Special Circumstances

ESY is not...

- Summer school
- An enrichment program
- A remedial program
- A respite program
- Not a continuation of the student's entire IEP during the regular school year
- Not required to be in a traditional classroom setting
- Is not provided for the purposes of "helping" a student catch up to their peers or maximize a student's potential

Kids fall through the crack between ESY and summer school, especially with more restricted eligibility criteria for summer school

Sped support in regular summer school. Why not specially designed instruction?

Summer School

Planning Process

- Not all of the Summer School decisions have been made yet
- What is the budget for summer school? Will incentives be offered for summer school teachers and staff?
- How is the decision made as to who will qualify for summer school?

The eligibility for summer school for the summer of 2023 will not be the same as last year. Students will be eligible for summer school based on either math or reading and it does not need to be both.

- How is the decision made as to how many summer school classes students can take?
- Who makes the decisions regarding summer school?
- When will the summer school decisions be made?
- What/how does the appeals process work?

Summer School Must be Accessible to Students with Disabilities

From the Virginia Department of Education website:

"[S]chool administrators should be mindful that even though a student with a disability may not require summer school in order to receive FAPE, that student has the same right to attend summer school as a non-disabled student. As a result, accommodations

may be needed to allow access to the child. . . . Section 504 places a duty on school divisions to provide the necessary services in summer school programs to ensure that *the student with a disability receives equal opportunity to participate in the program to the same extent as the student's non-disabled peers.*"

IEP Teams need to consider accommodations required for a student to access the curriculum.

Lack infrastructure to provide specially designed instruction for all students.

Summer School Locations

- Accessibility of the schools that are used for summer school
- Accessibility of bathrooms at the schools
- Playground access
- Logistics of the buildings - number of students, staff, accessibility

Summer School Staffing

- Summer school teachers and staff
- Providing accommodations/services so that summer school is accessible
- Budget for summer school is not set until June but hiring begins earlier based on the proposed budget.

Updates from ASEAC Working Groups

Planning Factors Working Group

- Discussion at the School Board work session on November 29, 2022
- Budget request

Translator/Interpreter/Family Information Workgroup

- Training for interpreters
- Collaboration with LSRC & Office of English Learners
 - Surveys have been sent to:
 - Student Support Coordinators
 - Interpreters
 - Bilingual Family Specialists
 - Content for training has been drafted; will incorporate survey data
 - Bilingual family specialists will participate in general interpretation training with Liberty Language Training - we will work with coordinator to identify gaps/provide additional info related to APS-specific student support & special education processes

Providing Information to Families

- Review of OSE and PRC Websites - upcoming translation include:
 - Student Support Team Manual
 - Special Education Program Evaluation & 5 Year Plan
 - PreK/Elementary and Middle/High School Communications Flow Charts
 - ASEAC Flier
 - PRC Family Resource & Information Guide
- Special Education Saturday Seminar in Spanish on 11.19 from 9-2:30pm
- Scheduled to meet w/ Bilingual Family Specialists in February
- Parent Toolbox
 - Family Resource & Information Guide (currently available in English & Spanish)
 - Into to Special Education & IEP - Online modules can be subtitled
 - La Sopa de la Abuela
 - PRC Consultations
 - Translated IEP forms

Budget Workgroup

- School Board Budget Priorities
 - Explicit callout in 2024 Budget Priorities
- Closeout
 - December/January
 - One-time or short-term expenditures/replenish reserves
- Adopted Budget
- Need for a greater equity lens in resource allocation given the uneven needs across schools
- Budget Headwinds!

Parent Resource Center Updates

Recent Updates/New Videos*

Crisis Services*

Autism 101*

Saturday Special Education Seminar in Spanish

ASEAC Business & Updates

Voted to Approve September and November Minutes.

Voted to hold the February 2023 ASEAC meeting in an ALL virtual format.

Appendix: Transcript of Meeting Zoom Chat

00:49:03 Kathleen Donovan: LOVE a good trifle! 00:51:24 Kathleen Donovan: My mom was the youngest of 8, Meaza, and I have very fond memories of visiting with my grandparents and aunts & uncles in Brooklyn. 01:09:50 Kathleen Donovan: If you are new to the Parent Resource Center (PRC), we can be reached at 703.228.7239 and prc@apsva.us 01:10:12 Kathleen Donovan: Our website is: www.apsva.us/prc . Please don't hesitate to reach out if we can be of support. 01:13:14 Mark Scarano: Thanks for this explanation of ESY vs Summer School. 01:24:01 Troy Anthony: If a student doesn't need ESY or Summer school In ARL county is there a summer camp that offer enrichment, STEM and learning opportunities to keep students sharp? 01:26:00 Kathleen Donovan: APS is hosting its Summer Activities Fair on February 16th from 6-8pm at Kenmore: [https:// www.apsva.us/summerfair/](https://www.apsva.us/summerfair/) 01:26:06 Jennifer Wheelock: There are lot of options in the county (through the County and private) that offer academic enrichment. APS discontinued the enrichment camps it previously offered for a fee to focus on its "academic strengthening" summer school. Last offered in summer of 2019 I think . 01:26:51 Mark Scarano: I was told that summer school was only for IEP students...after the Summer School miscommunications 2020. Had a great experience last year with Summer School. The teacher contacted each parent by email and I took the opportunity to let her know about my child's IEP. 01:26:56 Kathleen Donovan: Arlington SEPTA will also be offering a summer information session in February - 01:28:02 Troy Anthony: Thanks for the information, I'll save the date 01:29:04 Kathleen Donovan: Also, if anyone needs it, Arlington County's Therapeutic Recreation office provides wonderful inclusion programming as well as adapted camp opportunities: [https:// www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/Parks-Recreation/Programs/Therapeutic-Recreation/Therapeutic-Recreation-Summer-Camps](https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/Parks-Recreation/Programs/Therapeutic-Recreation/Therapeutic-Recreation-Summer-Camps) 01:29:36 Kristin Gillig: Here is the date and location for the SEPTA summer activities fair - [https://www.arlingtonsepta.org/event/ septa-summer-activity-fair/?instance_id=79187](https://www.arlingtonsepta.org/event/septa-summer-activity-fair/?instance_id=79187) 01:30:25 Kathleen Donovan: SEPTA Summer Activity Fair will be held on February 4 at 2pm at Walter Reed Community Center: [https://www.arlingtonsepta.org/event/septa-summer-activity-fair/? instance_id=79187](https://www.arlingtonsepta.org/event/septa-summer-activity-fair/?instance_id=79187) 01:30:33 Jennifer Wheelock: Welcome to summer school! It sounds like APS (and parents!) are fortunate to have you in this important role. 01:35:37 Mheret Keflai: That will be great idea please 01:36:18 Mheret Keflai: And that is very interesting 01:37:01 Mary Kadera (she/hers): Summer school funding and staffing doesn't get approved until May, it's true--but the hiring actually begins earlier based on what is in the *proposed* budget in February. 01:37:34 Mary Kadera (she/hers): The same is true for teachers that APS hires for the following school year--that hiring cycle starts in winter, and teachers' offer of pay is conditional on the budget being approved. Always has been. 01:38:41 Mary Kadera (she/hers): Same is true in Fairfax Co and other local school systems 01:43:14 Paige Shevlin: Kathleen, last summer Arlington had to really scale back inclusion support due to staffing so it became unmanageable. I ended up having to take my son out of most programs I had signed him up for. They were good about

refunds....but it was frustrating. 01:49:03 Mary Kadera (she/hers): 1,536 ES students last year in summer school 01:53:46 Kathleen Donovan: Thanks for letting us know, Paige. Sorry it was a frustrating summer. Hopefully staffing will be better this year for TR. 02:00:29 Kathryn Pericak: Here is the link where the quote came from: https://doe.virginia.gov/special_ed/regulations/state/faq_implementing_regulations/2012/023-12_discipline_summer_sch.shtml 02:03:00 Kristin Gillig: Kathy - that link shows me this error: This www.doe.virginia.gov page can't be found 02:05:44 Kathryn Pericak: Thanks for letting me know Kristin. I'll try again: https://doe.virginia.gov/special_ed/regulations/state/faq_implementing_regulations/2012/023-12_discipline_summer_sch.shtml 02:06:29 Kathryn Pericak: Sorry the link is not copying into the chat. I can email it to you after the meeting. 02:10:58 Jennifer Wheelock: David, I think you are hitting the nail on the head that so many of our students with disabilities are in summer school. While the curriculum might be "accessible," it does not often seem appropriate to their needs (this was our experience outside of ESY). Improvements need to be made in this area. 02:11:20 Emily Hicks: +1 to this. 02:11:32 david siu: Thank you. That is helpful. 02:12:03 Emily Hicks: It sounds like some of us may have children that fall in the middle which there is no service for 02:17:23 david siu: That is my concern as well 02:21:08 Kristin Gillig: FYI - the escalation flow chart resource Kathleen referred to is here <https://www.apsva.us/need-help/> 02:23:41 david siu: That is a lot of work. Thanks! 02:24:52 Kathleen Donovan: Thanks David. We've been working hard, but as always, it is incredibly gratifying work. 02:27:01 Jennifer Wheelock: [https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/arlinton/Board.nsf/files/CM3MUZ5CFDFB/\\$file/H-3%20FY%202022%20Final%20Fiscal%20Status%20and%20CIP%20Quarterly%20Presentation%20for%20Info%2012152022%20rev%2012132022%20\(Rev%20posted%20121322%201154%20AM\).pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/arlinton/Board.nsf/files/CM3MUZ5CFDFB/$file/H-3%20FY%202022%20Final%20Fiscal%20Status%20and%20CIP%20Quarterly%20Presentation%20for%20Info%2012152022%20rev%2012132022%20(Rev%20posted%20121322%201154%20AM).pdf) 02:27:36 Jennifer Wheelock: pg 9 and 10 02:31:59 david siu: Thanks Jennifer! Very important work 02:41:47 Kathleen Donovan: Have a great winter break, everyone! See you in 2023! 02:41:55 Minerva Trudo: Thank you everyone! Happy Holidays! Have a Happy New Year!