



Arlington Special Education Advisory Committee
Tuesday, 16 October 2025
Virtual Meeting

Attendance

Members

First Name	Last Name	Present
Bryant	Atkins	x
Fahd	Patel	x
Jennifer	Wheelock	x
Dr. Ellen	Fitzenrider	
Hillary	Gladstone	
Rich	Hershman	x
Vicki	Lyons	x
Laura	Bryant Njanga	x
Meg	Escobar	
Michelle	Rodriguez	x
Melissa	Schwaber	x
Paige	Shevlin	x
Swetha	Sribinder	
Vicki	Lyons	x
Laura	Swanson	x
Will Dokurno	Dokurno	X
Kelly	McCarthy	X
Chrissy	Stevens	X
David	Siu	X

Non-Members



Helen Cho, Reade Bush, Jenn Seiff, Andrew McCalister, Sara Miner, Laura Swanson, Zuraaya Tapia-Hadley, Randi Griffin, Kathryn Linehan, Abigail Arguta, Geovanna Sejas, Jen Seiff, Maribel Juarez, Sascha Foertsch; Non-Member Staff: Kelly Krug, Kenneth Brown, Gina DeSalvo, Kathleen Donovan, Emma Parral, Translators

Meeting Time

Opened: 7:00 PM; Adjourned: 9:00 PM

Public Comments

No Public Comment

Response to September public comments

- Integration Station: APS is developing an early childhood workgroup to vision and plan out what early childhood instruction might look like down the road.
- Cell Phone Accommodations: schools received updated guidance that went out last week.
- SPED Staffing: we continue to work with HR on staffing vacancies
- Individual student concerns: please continue to work with your student support coordinator and school administrators to address your concerns. If you feel they are unresolved, families can reach out to the PRC or OSE.

OSE Updates

AAC Game Night is this Thursday, October 30: 5-6:30pm at Lubber Run

Ongoing professional learning: 45-50 teachers at monthly training

Feedback on Indicator 13: OSE is undergoing a routinely scheduled state audit. Indicator 13 addresses student participation in IEP meetings. State indicates this needs improvement. Students 14 and older need to receive an invitation and that it is not sufficient to invite via parents.

Suggestions from members included:

- Students could be notified by case carrier, with a follow-up on the day of the meeting to remind students to participate;
- Students can receive notice through canvas in advance



- Students need to understand their role in the IEP meeting and an example was shared reading how Interlude teachers work with students in advance to lead their own meetings.
- Indetermined.org was shared as a resource that has a student rubric for IEP participation, along with other tools.
- Students would benefit from a similar resource as the “parent resource guide” developed by PRC/SEPTA or perhaps a student-led video.
- Los Angeles Unified School District has resources on how to involve students in IEP meetings.
- Concerns about circumstances in which a student and case carrier might disagree and who might be a neutral party (e.g., student support coordinator). Also student/parent can request a different case carrier, but it is not always possible to honor.

Other discussion re. OSE updates:

- A request that OSE provide the number of SpEd staff and assistant vacancies at every meeting because of the discrepancies between the online system and HR data.
- A concern regarding read aloud accommodation was raised, with a question about why reading screeners may not be administered with accommodation. OSE noted this has been a long standing practice on these low stakes tests to get a good baseline on the student.

PRC Updates

PRC noted upcoming events for October and noted the parent guides have all been translated into the 5 main languages

Chair Updates

- Welcomed new members
- David Siu to remain as Staff Liaison and Vice-Chair of Policy
- February Meeting moved to 17th instead of the 24th

Policy Updates



Three policies were open for public comment with responses due by November 9th

- Locally Awarded Verified Credits
- Options and Transfer
- Safety of Students and Child Abuse and Neglect - Child Protective Services
- Media Relations

New Business

Members moved and voice voted to adopt September minutes

- Update on APS Budget and CIP process
 - School board has adopted budget direction for 2027
 - School Board direction includes language consistent with prior ASEAC priorities of recruitment/retention and planning factors
 - School Board has proposed CIP direction for 2027-2036
 - The Facilities Advisory Committee is very interested in addressing accessibility
 - Member interest in ASEAC engaging in the CIP
- Proposed Changes to Advisory Committees: Members noted challenge of recruiting enough people to serve on the proposed councils and also the challenge of balancing participation if slots are limited to 10-16 participants.
- Work Plan Discussion
 - Members expressed interest in the following
 - Making sure students with disabilities have access and supports for advanced classes.
 - Inclusion and access to classes
 - Interest in addressing transition services
 - How to assist teachers and parents in early stages of behavioral changes
- Subcommittee Discussion
 - Jennifer to report back on FOIA and subcommittees based on ACTL experience
 - ACTL uses Canvas to collaborate
 - State FOIA applies to subcommittees as well, meaning that collaboration between more than 2 members is subject to FOIA rules

Adjourned 9:00 PM

