

**Local Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)
Prince George Public Schools, VA (Region I)**

Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2018

- Members in attendance: William Gandel, Kim Lee, Kim Shanks, Kathy Mitchell, Margaret Rosas, Mark Simpson, and Chaundra Taswell. Ms. Ms. Zetta Ethington participated as a consultant from the Student Services office.
- Chairperson Lee called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00 pm.
- There were no visitors to address the Committee during the available Public Forum Period, so there were no public comments.
- Past Business:
 - Members reviewed the minutes to the previous meeting (19 Apr 2018). The minutes were approved without further change.
- New Business:
 - Chairman Lee asked for ideas regarding goals to strive towards as guidance for our SEAC. She encouraged members to voice ideas and suggestions.
 - Ms. Lee noted that a member tendered her resignation with comments summarized by the Chairperson. Attendees responded with interest regarding the former member's comments.
 - Mr. Simpson reviewed elements that are necessary in meeting the SOL requirements. He advised attendees today about how stressful it is for parents who are trying to help their child meet the demands of earning a standard diploma. There was discussion on how SOL testing accommodations were not consistent with day-to-day accommodations of the IEP. Additionally, concern was raised that the new state diploma requirements for verified credits has been reduced for incoming ninth graders and not for current high school students. The previous elimination of the modified standard diploma continues to be a disadvantage and leaves students with disabilities little chance for successfully obtaining a non-applied studies diploma. Applied studies diplomas can range dramatically in requirements from working on basic functional skills to passing general education classes but obtaining less than 70 percent on SOL tests. This variation could ultimately lead to limited future opportunities for students with disabilities.
 - Remediation in reading and math were brought in to assist our students, yet, state mandates were not entirely met. Several other members expressed similar stresses.
 - The Committee address each item generated from the previous meeting brainstorming session for planning purposes. Various initiatives, budget inclusion, and addition to enhance the Special Education Program were addressed during the meeting. For example and ADA specialist and a transition specialist would be a good item to be emphasized for approval by the PG School board for next year's budget.

- Various discussion focused on increasing social connections for disabled students during the school day were also discussed.
 - The committee also emphasized a need for sensitivity and diversity training for all should occur in the coming year.
 - Discussions was held for SEAC recondition/awards for teachers and administrators who were exhibiting behaviors that were in line with the SEAC strategic direction. Examples cited were as follows:
 - being outstanding with students with disabilities
 - those who emphasized and successfully managed inclusion settings
 - made particular positive differences in students with disabilities education
-
- Ms. Mitchell provided an update on the County's Special Olympics program.
 - Nominations for officers for the 2018-19 school year were accepted and approved by vote. They are as follows:
 - Kim Lee, Chairperson
 - Kim Shanks, Vice Chair
 - William F. Gandel, Secretary
 - The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 16, 2018 @ 5:00 pm, Prince George School Board facility.
 - The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:45 pm.