

Arlington Special Education Advisory Committee
 MINUTES
 April 26, 2022
 Via Zoom

Recording of Meeting: (See Kathleen or Kelly for recording link from APS account)
 See Appendix for the Zoom Meeting Chat

ASEAC Members:

First Name	Last Name	Present?	Vote on March 2022 meeting minutes
Nicholas	Walkosak	N	absent
David	Rosenblatt	Y	Y
Keith	Chanon	Y	Y
Paul	Timm	Y	Y
Nadia	Facey	Y	Y
Margaret	Dunn	N	absent
Michelle	Best	Y	Y
Kristin	Gillig	N	absent
Kurt	Schuler	Y	Y
Minerva	Trudo	Y	Y
Matt	Leland	N	absent
Symone	Walker	N	absent
Kathryn	Pericak	Y	Y
Ellen	Fitzenrider	Y	Y
Eva	Kerns-Varner	Y	Y
Rebecca	Hunter	Y	Y
Jennifer	Wheelock	Y	Y
David	Siu	Y	Y

Motion to approve minutes: Paul, Second: Jennifer
 Minutes Approved

Non-Member Attendees:

Kathleen Donovan, Heather Rothenbeuscher, Kelly Krug, Emma ParraSanchez, Claudia Ramirez Cuellar, Janna Dressel, Kathleen Clark, Cecilia Kline, Tauna Szymanski, Wendy Pizer, Kathryn Linehan, Mary Kadera

Agenda:

- 7:00-7:30 - Opening and Public Comments
- 7:30-7:40 - Office of Special Education Report
- 7:40-8:20 - APS Special Education Annual Plan
- 8:45-9:00 - ASEAC business / Asuntos ASEAC

Welcome and Introductions (7:06pm)

David Rosenblatt welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed the agenda.

ASEAC Leadership Team:

Chair - David Rosenblatt
Vice Chair - Symone Walker
Co-Secretaries - Keith Chanon and Paul Timm

Membership: 18 Parents/Community Members, 1 Teacher Member, 2 Student Members

School Board Liaison: Mary Kadera

APS Staff Liaisons:

Heather Rothenbuescher, Director of Special Education - Secondary
Dr. Kelly Krug, Director of Special Education- Elementary
Kathleen Donovan, Parent Resource Center

Public Comments (7:10pm):

Note that comments are responded to by APS/Office of Special Education (OSE) at the following month's ASEAC meeting. Speakers have 3 minutes to present and are encouraged to submit written comments for the record.

Rebecca Hunter:

Is a member of the Facilities Advisory Committee. Regarding the Heights building and accessibility to Shriver students. There are major concerns regarding the lack of accessible parking at the school. Have sent this to listservs and other county meetings. Will go to the Planning Commission and the County Board to lobby for parking. If anyone would like to speak at one of the upcoming meetings to advocate for the construction of accessible parking, coordinate with Rebecca.

OSE Responses to March 2021 Public Comments (Heather R.) (7:16 pm):

- Bullying
 - Additional support provided to the school to help supervise the students and keep them separated. The school is receiving support from the Central Office.
- Behavioral Supports
 - APS sees behaviors as a form of communication. Recommend teachers to be aware of environmental factors and changes that could help.

- PTA Meetings:
 - Have communicated to schools the challenge that some parents are facing. Difficult to attend in-person meetings for many parents. Not aware of any public announcement. Recommend that parents talk to schools and their principals to address any problems.
- Mask Accommodations:
 - Shared this with the Superintendent and his cabinet members. Everyone is well aware about concerns regarding vulnerable individuals. We hope that awareness has helped.

OSE Updates, Kelly Krug (7:20pm):

Annual Plan

- Required by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)
- Provide a detailed description of how federal entitlement funds are spent (IDEA Grant 611 for K-12+ and 619 for early childhood/preschool services)

Components of the Plan

- Policy Statement
- Statement of Assurances
- Report on Implementation of 2020-21 School Year
- Excess Cost & Maintenance of Effort (MOE)
- Interagency Agreement with Correctional Facilities
- Application for IDEA Section 611 and 619

Funding Sources:

- FY 23 Proposed Operating Budget TBD. Should know in a couple of weeks.
- FY 23 Estimated IDEA State Funds \$5,665,198 million
- FY 23 Estimated Preschool funds \$116,750.00

FY 22 Proposed Budget: Mandated Services:

IDEA Part B Proposed Budgets

Section 611 breakdown by percent

- 99% for Personnel Services and Employee Benefits
- 1% for Purchased Services (i.e., Synergy)

•Section 619 breakdown by percent

- 62% Personnel Services and Employee Benefits
- 26% Materials & Supplies
- 7% Instructional & Assessment Materials
- 5% Professional Development

IDEA Part B Proposed Budgets

FY 23 Proposed Budget:

- Assistants: Instructional, Resource, Transition and Hourly Supports
- Child Find Teachers
- Clerical support
- Coordinators: Student Support Team, Transition, Parent Resource Coordinators

- Set-Aside Parentally Placed Students
- Psychologist
- Technology Support Specialists
- Instructional Materials
- Employee Benefits

Annual Application Timeline

- December 2021-March 2022 Budget Development Activities
- March 24, 2022 Presented as information Item to School Board
- April 26, 2022 Presentation to ASEAC
- May 13, 2022 Submit to VDOE

Questions:

- Keith: any additional funding for behavioral supports?
- Kelly: not through the IDEA funds

- David: Can APS share the draft plan to ASEAC for review in advance of submission to the VDOE?
- Kelly: Will check on this.

- David: What is the relationship between these grants and APS' regular operating budget?
- Kelly: There is overlap between the two whereby the funding is coming from different sources. The number of FTEs shown in the operating budget does not reflect the additional FTEs through the IDEA grants. Depending on the salary cost of a specific position, it could influence the source of funding.
- Nadia Facey: Keep in mind that one of ASEAC's statutory capabilities is to review APS' plan.
- OSE will double check on the process.
- Claudia: In the budget is there a program or extra staff support to support EL with Special Ed.?
- Kelly: We didn't delineate anything specific in this particular application.

ASEAC Updates (7:41 pm)

Open Discussion:

Jennifer Wheelock - Posting budget information in the chat and mentioned the issue of tutoring. Dr. Duran mentioned that APS is exploring providing virtual tutoring, especially grades 9-12 as the costs are high.

Cecilia Kline - Would like to hear how parent coaching services are working. Are user needs being met? Also, what is happening with professional development for SPED services. What will it look like next year, especially for more complex learners and AAC users? Mentioned ASEAC/SEPTA meeting with ASHPA and the need for follow-up.

Claudia Cuellar - Responded that the meeting with ASHPA went well. Latino community is facing significant challenges regarding the lack of interpretation and translation.

David: Wants to emphasize that the language access challenges being faced by the ASHPA community is significant and has not been resolved and additional efforts are needed to address this.

Keith: Curious about the high turnover among teachers and staff. Have heard about cases where assistants working with individual students are leaving mid-year. That can have many implications for students. Does APS have any plans to address staff turnover in the next year? Any incentives, or strategies to recruit and keep good teachers?

Kelly: We share your sentiment. It has been a real challenge this year. We are hoping that the new compensation for our staff will incentivize more to stay longer term. Looking for additional training to support our SPED assistants so they can be successful in their role. We are doing another job fair this Saturday.

Heather: we are doing extensive recruiting, on evenings and weekends. For summer school and ESY we have some incentives. We are doing everything we can to compete against other school divisions.

Rebecca Hunter: Wondering about summer school and planning to avoid staffing shortages. Hopes that every student who needs it can access it.

Janna: It would be great to touch base at one of the next few ASEAC meetings about APS's plans for the students who requested medical exemptions to stay virtual next year during the VLP pause - ideally covering staffing, program decision-making, and how APS will ensure FAPE and meet individualized student needs. Thanks!

David: Important issues to raise and we will discuss with OSE and how we can bring in APS staff for substantive updates.

David: Welcomed Mary Kadera - ASEAC School Board Liaison and offered her an opportunity to comment.

Mary Kadera: Happy to be with ASEAC and is taking notes to relay information back to her School Board colleagues and invites additional comments and concerns, for example, masking accommodations. Feel free to send Mary direct email messages.

Parent Resource Center Updates:

Upcoming Events:

March 30 - May 4:	ADHD Parent Series
April 28:	NOVA Vision
May 5:	Lunch & Learn - Anxiety

ASEAC Meeting Business

- Approval of March Meeting Minutes

Policy Subcommittee Update - Kathy Pericak (8:02)

- Public comments due by May 15th on 4 different policies.
 1. Policy M-16 Memorandums of Understanding
 2. Policy I-11.2 Homework
 3. Policy I-7.2.3.34 Communication -- Reporting Student Progress and Grades
 4. Policy C-30 Superintendent Advisory Committees

PIP Workgroup:

David: ASEAC ensured that its statutory role was acknowledged in the Policy C-30. ASEAC will now be included in the Advisory Committee policy as its own advisory committee, not only as a Subcommittee of ACTL. This should ensure ASEAC is consulted regularly on a sustained basis. There will now be a PIP that replaces the ASEAC Bylaws and describes how ASEAC will function in the future.

Request for members to join Kathy and David in a PIP Workgroup to make recommendations on how ASEAC should operate. This needs to happen in the next week. Need to fill out an APS template by May 6th. No one volunteered in the meeting. Please contact David or Kathy if interested in volunteering (pericak.kathy@gmail.com)

Other ASEAC Activities:

1. Budget Letter - David will send this out to members for feedback.
2. Shriver accessibility issues - Rebecca Hunter is monitoring the discussions with the Planning Commission and will attend the Transportation Committee this Thursday which will address parking. Recommends that individuals attend this meeting and submit comments. ASEAC could consider submitting formal comments. Can also provide input to the County Board. Chuck Chambers, staff member at the facilities level is a good contact.
 - a. Mary Kadera: This has not been discussed by the School Board and feels that her colleagues would support accessibility as originally envisioned.
 - b. Rebecca will attend Thursday's meeting at 6:30. Kurt Schuler is also available to make a public comment.
 - c. David supports ASEAC sending a letter to the proper committee. No concerns raised by members. Nadia recommends ASEAC send a letter to the Superintendent and copy the County committees. Rebecca will draft a letter for ASEAC.
3. Leadership process for next school year - ASEAC will select new leadership members in the May meeting, and then have that leadership team Chair the June meeting. That may be affected by this PIP process, but we need to decide as a group who we recommend to the School Board for ASEAC leadership. A small volunteer committee has traditionally served as a nomination committee. Are there any members who can help with that process? No volunteers during the meeting. Nadia is happy to talk with anyone who might have questions. Interested members should reach out. Current leadership members are not planning to stay on for next year. We will also need to recruit new ASEAC members. Please invite members of the community, especially as they represent different or new perspectives.
 - a. Symone: that includes two spots for students.
 - b. Nadia: it was truly a very rewarding experience for me. I encourage anyone interested to consider it. Suggests sharing general position responsibilities.
 - c. ASEAC desires to have virtual meetings for as long as possible. APS and the School Board share this view, but it will likely be determined by the State VDOE.
 - d. Kurt Schuler noted that the new ASEAC Bylaws now include virtual meetings as an option. Indicates that the School Board will ultimately provide the guidance.

(8:32pm) Move to adjourn: Paul Second: Kathy

Remaining Meeting dates reminder for 2021-2022:

- May 24, 2022
- June 14, 2022

APS Strategic Plan - six year plan with initiatives, desired outcomes, and strategies. Encourage all to review, especially in relation to ASEAC issues.

<https://www.apsva.us/strategic-plan/>

Resources for Members:

A Guide for Local Special Education Advisory Committees in Virginia (VDOE):

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/committees_advisory/special_ed/local_sped_advisory_committees/products/guide/guide.pdf

Virginia Department of Education Website for Local Special Education Advisory Committees:

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/committees_advisory/special_ed/local_sped_advisory_committees/index.shtml

Arlington School Board Policy B-3.6.31 - Advisory Council on Instruction:

<https://www.apsva.us/school-board-policies/>

Virginia Department of Education Parent's Guide to Special Education

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/committees_advisory/special_ed/local_sped_advisory_committees/index.shtml

Appendix I Zoom Meeting Chat

19:05:02 From Julio-Ricardo Basurto (Spanish Interpreter) to Everyone:
Please speak at a moderate speed for translation. Thank you

19:05:44 From emma.parralsanchez to Everyone:
Buenas Tardes! para interpretación simultanea, por favor, hacer clic en la esfera (que dice interpretation) que esta en la parte inferior de la pantalla y seleccionar el idioma.

19:06:53 From Paul Timm to Everyone:
Welcome, Everyone.

19:14:03 From Jennifer Wheelock to Everyone:
I'd be happy during the TBD time to give an overview of what I heard during budget work session 6 on a tutoring proposal for grades 9-12.

19:15:06 From Paul Timm to Everyone:
aseac.mail@gmail.com

19:20:26 From Wendy Pizer to Everyone:
I can echo that from what SEPTA is hearing

19:21:38 From Cecilia Kline to Everyone:
the masking accomodations issue will be especially relevant with upcoming IEP meeting happening for next year

19:28:02 From Tauna Szymanski (she/her) to Everyone:
That's right

19:29:06 From Tauna Szymanski (she/her) to Everyone:
| THE FUNCTIONS of the local advisory committee shall be as follows:
a | Advise the local school division of needs in the education of children with disabilities;
b | Participate in the development of priorities and strategies for meeting the identified needs of children with disabilities;
c | Submit periodic reports and recommendations regarding the education of children with disabilities to the division superintendent for transmission to the local school board;
d | Assist the local school division in interpreting plans to the community for meeting the special needs of children with disabilities for educational services;
e | Review the policies and procedures for the provision of special education and related services prior to submission to the local school board; and
f | Participate in the review of the local school division's annual plan, as outlined in subdivision B.2. in this section.

19:31:09 From Nadia Facey (she/her) to Everyone:
In my experience on ASEAC leadership we never got a copy of the draft plan prior to the VDOE approval, but we have requested the presentation of the application (the presentation we got today)... this would typically or should come before OSE presents to School Board - I

think things were strange this year with timing. David, you are correct this is one of our functions.

19:31:54 From Claudia Ramirez Cuellar to Everyone:

In the budget there is a program or staff for extra support for support EL with Special Ed.?

19:33:29 From Tauna Szymanski (she/her) to Everyone:

" Prior to submission to the Virginia Department of Education, the annual plan shall be reviewed by the local school division's local advisory committee, and approved by

the local school board . State-operated programs and the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind at Staunton shall submit their annual plan to the state special education

advisory committee for review prior to submission to the Virginia Department of Education."

19:33:52 From Tauna Szymanski (she/her) to Everyone:

See slide 9:

<https://www.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Powerpoint-presentation-by-Hank-Millward-VDOE.pdf>

19:34:35 From Tauna Szymanski (she/her) to Everyone:

I do recall getting a draft copy of the state plan at least during Jamelske's tenure.

19:35:23 From Tauna Szymanski (she/her) to Everyone:

I don't remember seeing names of individual staff either, but that didn't appear in the final plan either.

19:36:52 From Tauna Szymanski (she/her) to Everyone:

English speakers need to check "English" on the interpretation button below. I heard the interpretation.

19:37:22 From Julio-Ricardo Basurto (Spanish Interpreter) to Everyone:

select English and you will hear me

19:37:28 From Tauna Szymanski (she/her) to Everyone:

Right.

19:40:15 From Nadia Facey (she/her) to Everyone:

David - you and all of leadership are doing great and I'm thankful to all of you for volunteering all your time. Do not worry about this at all...

19:42:28 From Julio-Ricardo Basurto (Spanish Interpreter) to Everyone:

Sounds muffled

19:43:51 From Paul Timm to Everyone:

She sounds fine here.

19:44:53 From Jennifer Wheelock to Everyone:

Student progress dashboard. Lots of information here, esp. on the elementary grades.

<https://www.apsva.us/superintendents-office/student-progress-dashboard/>

19:46:46 From Claudia Ramirez Cuellar to Everyone:

Yess, thank you to ASEIC

19:46:48 From Jennifer Wheelock to Everyone:

Slides 11-12 discuss the tutoring options Duran discussed. They have suggested to SB to pursue 9-12. I am very concerned about unmet need in ES and MS level

19:49:48 From Jennifer Wheelock to Everyone:

Particularly for SWDs as we see the unmet need in the student dashboard. I question if virtual is the appropriate model for ES and MS students, but concerned SWD needs will remain unmet if we move forward with a model just for 9-12.

19:51:52 From David Siu (he/they) to Everyone:

I second Keith's concerns. It is not just teachers, but coordinators as well.

19:53:18 From Jennifer Wheelock to Everyone:

Great 2 part series from NPR on how districts around the country are working to retain Special Education teachers

<https://www.npr.org/2022/04/20/1093764116/a-special-ed-teacher-shortage-is-getting-worse-but-one-fix-is-catching-on>

19:53:22 From Tauna Szymanski (she/her) to Everyone:

Can we please get an update on the meaningful inclusion effort? I keep seeing job ads for staff to fill segregated classrooms, and hearing horror stories about students with disabilities being told they aren't welcome or cannot be supported at their neighborhood school.

19:53:36 From Janna Dressel to Everyone:

It would be great to touch base at one of the next few ASEAC meetings about APS's plans for the students who requested medical exemptions to stay virtual next year during the VLP pause - ideally covering staffing, program decision-making, and how APS will ensure FAPE and meet individualized student needs. Thanks!

19:54:20 From Rebecca Hunter to Everyone:

in case anyone interested. NOVA having a webinar on accommodations this week.

19:54:47 From David Siu (he/they) to Everyone:

I also second Tauna's request.

19:55:13 From Minerva Trudo to Everyone:

I second Janna's request.

19:56:24 From Julio-Ricardo Basurto (Spanish Interpreter) to Everyone:

We know of people applying for positions but HR does not have responses or updates for them. It seems there is a hold up on the HR side as well

19:56:39 From Jennifer Wheelock to Everyone:

Agree with Rebecca. Hearing from many families that if their SWDs are not behind in both reading AND math, they are being told they are not eligible for summer school. And sounds like teams are holding students to a higher bar for ESY.

19:57:24 From Nadia Facey (she/her) to Everyone:

Again, I know we talk about this a lot... but we need more support for more class options for SWD especially in Secondary for Math.

19:57:46 From Tauna Szymanski (she/her) to Everyone:

Re COVID medical exemptions, if you missed it, the CDC significantly broadened its list of high risk individuals. It now includes ADHD, among other disabilities. Scroll down to the Disabilities category here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>

19:58:23 From Nadia Facey (she/her) to Everyone:

People I know keep hearing - students either need to be on grade level - or in a county wide program. It has been my experience there is no space or very little space for students in the middle...

19:58:33 From Tauna Szymanski (she/her) to Everyone:

Re inclusion effort, what are the baseline data indicators that are being used to measure progress?

20:01:44 From Kathryn Pericak to Everyone:

Policy review subcommittee update: We need to answer 10 questions in a template that will be used by APS to draft ASEAC's PIP (due May 6th). Please let me know if you are interested in working on that PIP. Also, please let me know if you are interested in reviewing the following policies that are posted for public comment (comments are due to APS by May 15, 2022):

Policy M-16 Memorandums of Understanding

Policy I-11.2 Homework

Policy I-7.2.3.34 Communication -- Reporting Student Progress and Grades

Policy C-30 Superintendent Advisory Committees

20:01:53 From Tauna Szymanski (she/her) to Everyone:

The amazing Kathy Pericak

20:04:12 From Nadia Facey (she/her) to Everyone:

That

20:04:27 From Nadia Facey (she/her) to Everyone:

Opps, I was gonna say, that is really good.

20:04:50 From Nadia Facey (she/her) to Everyone:

It's a big deal... thank you Kathy, David and all!

20:08:47 From Kathryn Pericak to Everyone:

pericak.kathy@gmail.com

20:12:13 From Tauna Szymanski (she/her) to Everyone:

I represented ASEAC during the 2020 SB Work Session on this, so I know there was an official ASEAC role in this in the past.

20:13:45 From Tauna Szymanski (she/her) to Everyone:

That work session was in August 2020

20:13:53 From Kurt Schuler to Everyone:

I am the father of a Shriver student, so I will inform other Shriver parents about the parking garage matter.

20:14:20 From Kurt Schuler to Everyone:

Yes, I am available.

20:15:24 From Wendy Pizer to Everyone:

Dave, who would the letter be addressed to?

20:15:32 From Tauna Szymanski (she/her) to Everyone:

I think it's important for ASEAC to weigh in, but I'm no longer an ASEAC member.

20:15:44 From Wendy Pizer to Everyone:

Just as a matter of process, ASEAC advises the SB and APS

20:15:56 From Wendy Pizer to Everyone:

ASEAC doesn't advise the county

20:16:13 From Tauna Szymanski (she/her) to Everyone:

The Arlington Disability Advisory Commission was also somewhat involved in the history of the accessibility of this building, so they might sign on as well.

20:16:21 From Wendy Pizer to Everyone:

In the past when we have had requests to weigh in on County issues, we advised the SB and asked them to advocate to the County

20:16:35 From Tauna Szymanski (she/her) to Everyone:

ASEAC went to the DAC at the time and they were interested.

20:17:03 From Wendy Pizer to Everyone:

ASEAC can ask the SB to do the advocacy on this

20:17:32 From Rebecca Hunter to Everyone:

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Commissions-and-Advisory-Groups/Transportation-Commission#participate>

20:17:35 From Wendy Pizer to Everyone:

That said, I absolutely encourage ASEAC to get involved. This is really important and has been a longstanding need

20:17:52 From Tauna Szymanski (she/her) to Everyone:

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Commissions-and-Advisory-Groups/Disability-Advisory-Commission#:~:text=The%20Disability%20Advisory%20Commission%3A,with%20sensory%20and%20physical%20disabilities>

20:18:23 From Tauna Szymanski (she/her) to Everyone:

The current chair, Elizabeth Priaulx, is a parent of an APS student.

20:18:27 From Tauna Szymanski (she/her) to Everyone:

I know her well.

20:20:20 From Cecilia Kline to Everyone:

does the whole leadership change?

20:20:32 From Cecilia Kline to Everyone:

is anyone staying on?

20:21:47 From Nadia Facey (she/her) to Everyone:

Are any members of leadership staying?

20:23:29 From Nadia Facey (she/her) to Everyone:

Typically 3

20:23:41 From Ellen Fitzenrider to Everyone:

Can you share a little bit about how "experienced" someone needs to be?

20:25:54 From Cecilia Kline to Everyone:

do we know yet if meetings will stay virtual next year?

20:26:38 From Tauna Szymanski (she/her) to Everyone:

I wasn't able to find the bylaws on the ASEAC website.

20:26:41 From Rebecca Hunter to Everyone:

when do we plan to vote? May or June?

20:27:36 From Tauna Szymanski (she/her) to Everyone:

People can make an ADA reasonable accommodation request for virtual participation in ASEAC meetings if needed.

20:28:31 From Janna Dressel to Everyone:

SEPTA (Special Education PTA) is similarly needing to fill a number of leadership positions for next year. If you are interested in getting involved please reach out to president@arlingtonsepta.org

20:29:15 From Janna Dressel to Everyone:

I agree with Nadia's sentiments - taking on leadership roles in our community has been incredibly rewarding.

20:30:02 From Tauna Szymanski (she/her) to Everyone:

ASEAC is an ADA Title II entity, and participating via Zoom would absolutely be an ADA reasonable accommodation. Just FYI.

20:30:23 From Keith Chanon to Everyone:

I plan on staying as a member of ASEAC next year.

20:30:39 From Nadia Facey (she/her) to Everyone:

Thank you.