NEWPORT NEWS SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF NOV. 25, 2008 MEETING

ATTENDANCE

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Michelle Munger, Elizabeth Raschen.

FROM THE CHAIR

- The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.
- The minutes from October meeting were approved.
- Revised NNPS SEAC By-laws were distributed.
- Public comment guidelines were read.
- Committee introductions were done.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

A parent expressed interest in join the SEAC, and offered services to assist with housing needs.

STAFF REPORTS

- Special Education teacher received the LFCU 2008/2009 mini grant award of $250
- Three special education teachers passed the National Boards.
- NNPS was invited to participate in Project Search (a business transition opportunity) with Hampton Public Schools and Sentara.

UNSUNG HERO AWARD

The Unsung Hero Award will be awarded every three months instead of monthly.

PROGRAM

"Overview of NIMAS & AIM-VA" - Donna Waldman, Assisted Technology

OLD BUSINESS

- Subcommittee reports – None.
- Chair explained expectations for committee chairs.
NEW BUSINESS

- SEAC Members who missed three meetings were dropped from committee
- There were no phone or email updates.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Parent with child in First Step Program had issue with the termination of an IEP, and if child is 504 qualified. Staff and member of SEAC will contact parent.

SEAC COMMENT PERIOD

- Hyunsuk Bywater handed out information on where Obama and Biden stand on supporting Americans with Autism Spectrum Disorders.
- Tom Grummell expressed interest in people from the Mayor’s Committee on Disability should participate on the SEAC.
- Newsletter is at printer.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.
Minutes taken by Mary Beth Helsel

FROM THE CHAIR:

- Meeting called to order at 5:06 p.m.
- The minutes from September meeting were approved.
- Speaker guidelines were read.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

No public comments

PROGRAM

- Awards: Unsung Hero Award presented to Sue Christy (surrogate parent) and Service Recognition presented to Sarah Russell (past SEAC chairperson)
- Proposed By-Laws approved as sent out with agenda mailing (1st- Maqbool, 2nd- Theresa)

OLD BUSINESS:

- Sub-Committee Reports- Legislative Comm. - Reported by Nosuk Kim Reviewed HB 1588- Healthcare coverage up to age 21
- Transition Comm. - reported by Tom Grummell (no meeting last month)
- Newsletter Comm. - reported by Tom, Joan, and Ruthann acquiring articles. Hopefully ready to go out with report cards
- Membership Comm. - reported by Theresa Swartzbaugh wants legislative/ membership to be joined together
- Crisis Prevention- Maqbool Sheik to chair
- Request for community reps to participate on sub-committees

NEW BUSINESS:

Corresponding secretary absent. No report available.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public comments
SEAC COMMENT PERIOD:

- SEAC member introductions
- Meet and Greet

STAFF REPORTS

Special Ed. Staff reports read by Lisa Powers (filling in for Michelle Mitchell)

ADJOURNMENT:

NEWPORT NEWS SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2008 MEETING

ATTENDANCE


FROM THE CHAIR

- The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:32 PM.
- The minutes from May meeting were approved.
- Public comment guidelines were read.
- Committee introductions were done.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public comments

PROGRAM

“Effectiveness Training for Special Education Advisory Committees – Building Local SEACs for Better Special Education Services and Student Outcomes”
- Judy Hudgins, Virginia Department of Education
- Vickie Beatty, Partnership for People with Disabilities

- Judy and Vickie gave an outstanding overview on the functions, procedures, roles and responsibilities, and effectiveness of SEAC.
• They discussed techniques on how to work collaboratively with other organizations, and the importance of building relationships with partners to affect positive change.

OLD BUSINESS

• Transition survey – changes were made to survey, and data is still being collected.
• FERPA – parental preference sheet for the delivery of confidential information from school are completed and at the printer.

NEW BUSINESS

• The Chair outlined the 2008-2009 SEAC agenda.
• Changes to the SEAC Bylaws were addressed, and will be discussed further at October’s meeting.
• SEAC “Unsung Hero Award” was introduced. Award is designed to pay tribute to those NNPS employee who make ‘a substantive yet unrecognized contribution’ to their schools and students.
• Sub committee sign-up sheet was circulated by vice Chair.
• Topics from public comments will be recorded for future review.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Parent asked if updated SEAC meeting minutes could be posted on the NNPS website. Parent did not receive May’s meeting minutes in the mail.

SEAC COMMENT PERIOD

• Dr. William Collins mentioned that 2010 school budget discussions were occurring now.
• Ruthann Newton, PERC, provide information on an upcoming workshop “IEPs: How to Help Your Child and Empower Their Teacher” on OCT 14, 2008, 6-8 PM at Watkins Early Childhood Center.
• The 17th Annual Disability Awareness Day is Oct.11th, 2008. There will be activities held at Patrick Henry Mall from 10am–5pm.
• The Junior League is sponsoring “Miles of Smiles…A Family Event for Children with Special Needs” program (free) at the Virginia Living Museum on Friday, Nov. 7, 2008, 6–8 PM.
• Donald Skrinjorich mentioned that the IDEA link on NNPS website was out of date – IDEA 97, not IDEA 04. Michele Mitchell stated that changes to website are forthcoming.

STAFF REPORTS

• Michele Mitchell, Director of Special education, introduced her staff members who were present.
• In August, all special education teachers and speech pathologist received training on the new IEP process.
• Teachers from Newport News and Poquoson attended a shared training opportunity.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.
NEWPORT NEWS SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MAY 27, 2008 MEETING

ATTENDANCE:

SEAC MEMBERS: Sarah Russell, Tom Grummell, Kimberly Crutchfield, Vickie Martorano, Joan Brunner, Brock Everett, Vera Hansley, Mqbool Sheikh, Carl Brakman, Beverly Smith, Dynatt Vann. CONSULTING MEMBERS: Michele Mitchell, Teddy Hicks, Glenn Whitlock. OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: None.

FROM THE CHAIR:

• The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:32 PM.
• The minutes from April meeting were approved.
• Public comment guidelines were read.
• Committee introductions were done.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

No public comments

PROGRAM

“Recognition of Special Education Teachers who are Teacher of the Year”
– Michele Mitchell, Director, Special Education & Assessment Services

• Michele Mitchell, SEAC committee members, and others in attendance recognized nine Special Education teachers who were awarded Teacher of the Year honors.

OLD BUSINESS:

• Membership committee update – membership letters were sent out and no responses as of yet.
• Nominating committee update - new committee officers for 2008-2009 were selected: Chair – Joan Brunner, Vice chair – Tom Grummell, Recording Secretary – Brock Everett, and Corresponding Secretary – Sheila Canada.
• Status of the Chairperson’s Report to the School Board update – the summary is completed, recommendations are still being worked on, and if there are any additional recommendations that need to be added please forward to chair as soon as possible.

NEW BUSINESS:

• Review Chairperson’s Report to the School Board.
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public comments

SEAC COMMENT PERIOD:

- Mr. Teddy Hicks reported that he did not receive a copy of the transition survey prior to school board meeting, and expressed concern.
- Beverly Smith commented on the success of the George S. Green Field day.
- Vicki Martorano mentioned an article in the Daily Press pertaining to special education and unmet needs.

STAFF REPORTS

No staff reports.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 5:42 PM
NEWPORT NEWS SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF APRIL 29, 2008 MEETING

ATTENDANCE:

SEAC MEMBERS: Sarah Russell, Brock Everett, Richard C. Mills, Maqbool Sheikh, Carl Brakman, Joan Brunner, Vera Hansley

School Board Member: Teddy Hicks

Consulting Members: Janice Bryant, Wands Council, Marian Harper, Michele Mitchell, Marlene Montandon, Ruthann Newton, Dr. Lisa Powers, Glenn Whitlock,

FROM THE CHAIR:

- The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.
- The minutes form February were approved.
- Public comment guidelines were read.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Vick Messick- Special Education Policy and Procedures

- Concerns with policy and procedures being followed at high school level in Newport News

Tom Grummell- (by Carl Brakman) Transition Services

- Express his thoughts and concerns on the need for improvement with the transition service delivery system within NNPS

Carl Brakman- Annual Plan, policies and current procedures, assurances SEAC functions

- Expressed his concern with SEAC functions

PROGRAM

“ALTERNATE ASSEMENTS “
VAPP & VGLA

- Janice Bryant and Marlene Montandon
OLD BUSINESS:
NONE

NEW BUSINESS:
NONE

SEAC COMMENT PERIOD:
NONE

STAFF REPORTS
Mrs. Mitchell shared with everyone that 9 special education teachers were honored as the teacher of the year in their schools.

ADJOURNMENT:
Meeting adjourned at 5:33 PM
ATTENDANCE:

CONSULTING MEMBERS: Michele Mitchell, Teddy Hicks, Marian Harper, Wanda Council, Glenn Whitlock, Jeanice P. Bryant, Kimberly Judge. OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: None.

FROM THE CHAIR:

- The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.
- The minutes from February meeting were approved.
- Public comment guidelines were read.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

No public comments

PROGRAM

“Review of the Special Education Annual Plan and Funding Application”
– Michele Mitchell, Director, Special Education & Assessment Services

Michele discussed the NNPS Special Education Annual Plan and Funding Application and fielded questions from attendees.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Members interested in serving on membership committee. Carl Brakman, Vickie Martorano, and Dynatt Vann volunteered to serve on committee.
- Voting for new board members will be held in May, and community reps can serve as well.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The nominating committee is looking for members. Mary Beth Helsel chairs this committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

No public comments
SEAC COMMENT PERIOD:

- Beverly Smith handed out information for program sponsored by HNNCSB ‘Family Education Series’ – “Part C-Early Intervention: Services doe Birth through 2 years” on Tuesday, April 8, 2008
- Vicki Martorano noticed the sign in front of the school building states “Mental Retardation Month”, and asked if it could be changed to something else. Sarah Russell (Chair) will look into situation.
- April is Autism Awareness Month. The PERC and Smart-One, Inc. are sponsoring a program “Parent’s Chat – What is ABA? RDI? What’s Right for My Child with Autism” at the Midtown Community Center on Thursday, April 24, 2008.
- Thomas Grummell handed out an article from the New York Times illustrating how dance is used to assist children with autism.

STAFF REPORTS

- Jeanice Bryant has been promoted to Supervisor of the Preschool Program.
- Kimberly Judge has been promoted to Autism Specialist.
- The schools have been proactive in preparing for students moving up to the next levels i.e….rising sixth graders and rising ninth graders.
- Middle and High schools have sponsored open house nights to which all students were invited and special education teachers were involved.
- A presentation was made to elementary special education lead teachers in order to facilitate the moving up of current fifth graders. The elementary lead and all 5th grade special education teachers of each elementary school will meet with the special education lead for the zoned middle school regarding every special education student expected to attend that middle school in the fall.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 5:11 PM