



# LOUDOUN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Ad Hoc Committee on Special Education

Beth Huck, Chair

SCHOOL BOARD

## MINUTES

Thursday, October 4, 2018, 9:30 a.m.

**Committee members and alternates present:** Beth Huck, Chair; Brenda Sheridan, Board member; Debbie Rose, Board member; Asia Jones, assistant superintendent, Pupil Services; Suzanne Jimenez, director, Special Education, staff liaison; Donna Smith, special education supervisor; Joy Engstrom, special education supervisor; Megan Wagner, special education supervisor alternate; Toni DeLuca Evans, special education supervisor alternate; Beth Robinson, principal; Lori Mercer, principal; Heidi Smith, principal alternate; Deana Czaban, parent; Nicki McMahon, parent; Jill Pope, parent; Chris Croll, Gifted Services; Craig Metz, SEAC; Shehnaz Khan, SEAC; Lorraine Hightower, SEAC past-chair; Sharon Tropf, SEAC past-vice chair; Karen Berlin, BCBA

**Other Board members and staff present:** Michael Richards, Chief of Staff

**Absent:** Bridget Gorey, special education supervisor alternate; Doug Anderson, principal; Bridget Beichler, principal alternate; Kirk Dolson, principal alternate; VonEnde Coleman, MSAAC

- I. **Approval of Minutes.** The committee reviewed Minutes from the meeting held on September 20, 2018. Ms. Sheridan made the motion to approve. Ms. Czaban seconded the motion. The Minutes were approved 17-0-2; Ms. Rose arrived following the vote. (absent: Doug Anderson, principal; VonEnde Coleman, MSAAC).
  
- II. **Public Comment.** Claudia Skinner. Ms. Skinner provided a public comment to express concern about the use of restraint and seclusion and to offer information about an article that shares positive results in a school that reports that it does not use restraint or seclusion. She addressed the report of a student restraint/assault at Douglass School. Ms. Skinner questioned after reading the report of this incident, "Why do we keep talking about restraint and it (restraint) keeps happening?" Ms. Skinner shared that she had read an article from *Disability Scoop* about a school which has abandoned the practice of restraint and seclusion. She added that a 12-year analysis conducted by the school produced results that restraint and seclusion practices do not work. The school reported positive results with the alternative strategy that they are using.

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- III. **Presentation.** Dr. Jones shared two policies that are in draft form and were presented to the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) for review and input. The draft policies for Special Education are: Generally and a new policy for Restraint and Seclusion. The committee was asked to provide input at the October 18, 2018, meeting.
  
- IV. **Planned Activity.** The committee continued the review of the Regulations for Restraint and Seclusion document to gain input on the proposed content. The discussion focused on the definitions section with a suggestion to identify source documents for consistency and clarity. One committee member shared that she has received feedback to share that questions the need for a regulation or policy for restraint and seclusion and that there is a preference that the practice be prohibited. The committee provided input on the regulations and requested a documentation of the changes so that it is possible to review the changes that were proposed and how they are incorporated in the revised draft document.
  
- V. **Next Steps.** Ms. Huck shared remarks regarding the intent of the committee to meet the charge set by the Board for the Board to continue to work with the SEAC membership to get input on special education matters. The Ad Hoc Committee will address a broad scope of issues, not only restraint and seclusion. Ms. Huck shared that the Board approved the continuation of the Ad Hoc Committee until the end of June 2019 and the expectation of a report and recommendations by the end of November 2018. Ms. Huck shared that she will be considering the establishment of subcommittees to examine different disability concerns and developing a timeline for the committee work.
  
- VI. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.