

SEAC Minutes

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

- Welcome
- Attendance:
 - o Cate Hudtloff
 - o Joyce Cooper
 - o Mikhal Salzbery
 - o Jaronda Miller-Bryant
 - o Renee Krone
 - o Anna DiGregory
 - o Katy Compel
 - o Nicole Group
 - o Alice Fox
 - o Kevin Kirst
 - o Stephanie Hicks
 - o Mike Wagner
 - o Michael Armstrong
 - o Jen Beard
 - o Jessica Allen
 - o Rebecca Silverman
 - o Laura Strauss
 - o John
 - o Tammy Gouldsmith
 - o Johnsa Morris
- Introductions
- Approve Minutes: May 2021; September 2021
 - o May minutes were approved
 - o Kevin shared that the special education enrollment is about 1800; with that update, we approved September minutes
- Speakers:
 - o Keys Academy speaker confirmed for January 11th
 - o We would like to also hear from VIA
 - o Joyce Cooper has a suggestion for a speaker from UVA regarding culturally-responsive teaching
 - Culturally-responsive teaching means acknowledging and honoring all of the cultures that go into our classrooms. Not just being aware of them, but honoring them.
- Kevin and Nicole provide big picture updates about the budget; when it is drafted and finalized. Budget meetings are live streamed and are public

- Parent Resource Center Update– Michael Armstrong ((434) 296-5885 or by email at spedhelp@k12albemarle.org.)
 - <https://www.k12albemarle.org/our-departments/special-education/prc>
 - We do have a monthly newsletter
 - Michael wanted to know if we are still actively searching for more members.
 - Nicole responds: everyone is welcome, but we are not accepting applications for more voting members for the year.
 - Stephanie asked for Michael to highlight some of the schools that still need a representative
 - This newsletter will be the first newsletter of the new year
 - Please sign up for the newsletter on the website!!
 - Michael shared with new members that we have a special collections collaboration with Jefferson Madison Regional Public Library.
 - 225 Lambs Lane (behind Jack Jewett Middle School)-- will be available on Fridays by appointment to meet with families.
 - Adding books to the special collection– we will order them twice a year. We are ordering in January and July.
 - We are up to 216 titles
 - Looking for titles that are helpful for adults and children
 - Alice asked if it would be helpful to ask the teachers if they have recommendations/requests– YES!! :)
 - Modified books might be helpful as well
- Committee Updates:
 - Parent Council Representative– Alice Fox
 - It was great!! She felt like she got a lot out of the meeting.
 - She explained SEAC to them and felt like it was a great place to be.
 - Health Advisory Committee Representative
 - Kevin presented on mask-wearing.
 - Drs King presented on the impact on their child who is not able to wear a mask
 - There were some recommendations made and he is taking them to the superintendent and we are starting to implement them
 - Will not be a change to school board policy, but may be a change in “procedural implementation”
 - “layered mitigation strategies”
 - Kevin can post the minutes if we would like (Nicole says yes)
 - Nicole reminds everyone– we are here as a team, for the collective whole. We should raise systemic issues, not individual ones.
 - Strategic Design Team / Contemporary Schooling Initiative & Portrait of a Graduate are over– these are finished!
- Business:
 - Issues brought to SEAC representatives attention
 - School Board Rep to SEAC

- Nicole's update: Kevin was going to explore whether or not we would be violating a policy. The protocol is that Kevin cannot invite directly, but we are welcome to do so. We can request a formal school board rep as one of our action items in our annual letter to the board.
 - John suggested that it would not be a good idea for this to coincide with the election, so that they do not feel the need to use the meeting for campaigning
- Speakers:
 - Emails out to Region 10, Elk Hill, Keys Academy
 - Anti-bullying speaker from Central Office
 - Self-advocate
 - Possible suggestion: Rosanne Gamma from special olympics
- Meeting schedule
- Public Comment
 - o Nothing through the website
 - o Laura Strauss reported that she was notified by robocall and email for SEAC meeting in city schools, and suggested this might be helpful
 - Kevin shared that previously he had gotten a lot of pushback from this and calls from people asking him to stop calling
 - Discussed a variety of options, including posting on facebook, sending emails, etc
 - Cannot share this particular link with the population at large, but can send the public livestream link
 - Emily B volunteered to manage social media announcements, will connect with Kevin about this
 - o Jaronda asked: is there a way to tell how many viewers we have?
 - Kevin will check
 - o Kevin will also check with the PR department to see if we can get it on the website calendar
 - o Discussion around preschool students not being eligible for Covid-related extended school year relief this year:
 - the communication from the superintendent was unclear and seemed to imply that all students would be offered this, but this was not the case for preschool students.
 - Kevin recommended that we reach out directly to the school board/superintendent to get answers to this
 - There has been a lot of frustration around this issue for parents.
 - It seems that the criteria for decision making around extended school year services was unclear.
 - Generally the committee supported writing a position letter about sharing our perspective and preventing this from happening next year, and/or clarifying what will happen this upcoming summer.
 - Jessica asks about ensuring that our kids do not lose anymore ground due to Covid-19

- Laura volunteered to write the position letter and connect with Jen around this. She offered to send a draft of the position letter to the group one week prior to the next meeting so that we can approve it.
 - Jen B.: The rationale from the school board was: “The summer programming for 2021 was an expansion of existing programming not creating new programming”. She stated that she felt the true justification for this decision came down to money. The school would have had to hire teachers for a whole new grade. This is her hypothesis.
 - o Laura shared concerns that the emails go directly to main office. She would like for the emails to go to someone on the committee. She requested that Kevin not be the one who is “parsing” that. She stated that she is not sure why staff is receiving them at all.
 - Kevin said that he would work with Stephanie and Nicole to explore this.
 - We will add this to next month’s agenda.
- Announcements
 - Adjournment

SEAC Meeting Schedule 2021-2022

Tuesday, November 9, 2021
Tuesday, December 14, 2021
Tuesday, January 11, 2022
Tuesday, February 8, 2022
Tuesday, March 8, 2022
Tuesday, April 12, 2022
Tuesday, May 10, 2022