



School District of Palm Beach County, Florida
ESE Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2022



Note – for all motions below, the member who made the motion and the member who seconded the motion are indicated in parentheses following the motion.

Meeting called to order at 9:42.

Introductions were done. A quorum was established.

Motion to approve February 2022 minutes. (Clark, Rodriquez) Unanimous approval

Family Empowerment Scholarship (Summer Parr Bochicchio)

- The McKay Scholarship is becoming the Family Empowerment Scholarship for Unique Abilities. (FES-UA)
- FES will still have a public school option and the deadlines remain the same.
- People currently using the McKay in a school do NOT need to re-apply.
- When applying, parents will apply through a Scholarship Funding Organization (SFO)
- Everyone with an IEP is eligible.
- Everyone with 504 is not automatically eligible. They have to have an approved medical condition. The list of conditions is on the “Step Up For Students” website.
- A student no longer has to be in public school for one year before applying.
- For families using the FES for private school, they can apply for siblings as well. The sibling would apply through the FES EO (Educational Opportunity). The FES-EO is normally based on income, but it is not based on income for siblings.
- The application for next school year has not yet been opened by the FDOE.
- For transportation to be provided, the school must be within 10 miles of the student’s home. This may be changed with new guidance from the state.
- A parent may submit their school choices to Summer Parr Bochicchio as soon as they have their FES approval. If there is a situation where a school can take fewer students than apply (and are approved), the first students to apply will be approved.

Director’s Report – Kevin McCormick

- Very busy planning for FSA, FSAA, and other standardized testing.
- We had many students on Access Points (AP) who didn’t meet the new AP requirements. They have drastically reduced that number by having meetings and doing re-evaluations or by taking them off AP.
- Planning for Extended School Year (ESY). It will be 6/6 to 7/7. Not sure if it will be a half day or full day. It was very difficult to staff full-day ESY last year.
- Meeting with all principals to discuss next year’s budget.

- A member asked about the number of Parents As Liaisons (PALs) being cut to one position. However, that one PAL's contract has been increased for extra hours.

Individual Education Plan Update

Accommodations are now in alphabetical order.

Interventions Vertical Planning -(Kevin McCormick))

They are creating a list of which programs are used in each school. After that, they will look at the feeder patterns to determine if changes need to be made for vertical planning.

Location of meetings for next school year

There was a discussion of whether to remain virtual or meet in person. The majority of members preferred to remain virtual. A suggestion was made to meet a few times a year in person.

District Diversity and Equity Committee – Kimberly Spire-Oh

- DDEC discussed the plan for crisis health responses/Baker acts.
- The DDEC sent a letter about the “Don’t Say Gay” act and the Board sent a similar letter.

Boundary Committee – Carla Donaldson

- Blue Lake Elementary (the new elementary school) has projected boundaries that have been sent to the Superintendent.
- The new school will not have any ESE programming. Kevin said that they considered adding programs to both Blue Lake and Verde, but the numbers did not support it.

Regional Team Lead Reports

- Glades Area – Amy Brown – working on ESY and budgets for next year. Working on articulation (students moving from one level of schooling to the next).
- North Region–Shaquira Young-finishes BPIC meetings, working on budgets & articulation.

Member Comments

JFK North has partnered with the school district to start a therapeutic program in which students will also receive their education from the district. This is a voluntary program for students who need intensive outpatient mental health treatment for 4-6 weeks. The teacher will work with the student's primary teacher.

Guest Comments

None

No meeting in April because of FSA. Next meeting is May 3rd.

Meeting adjourned at 11:21