



School District of Palm Beach County, Florida
ESE Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
September 6, 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 9:34.

Introductions were done. A quorum was established.

Motion to approve May 2022 minutes with one correction. (Tarlow, Clark) Unanimous approval

New legislation and Procedural Safeguards (Laura Pincus)

- HB173 – added a requirement for an Individual Seizure Action Plan for students diagnosed with seizure disorder. Specifies training that anyone who comes in contact with the student will need to have.
- HB 235 – Restraints and seclusion – our school board policy was updated to reflect the change. Schools can no longer use mechanical restraints. That has always been SDPBC policy.
- 1003.572 – Update to Private Personnel coming into schools. Now allowing registered Behavior Technicians (RBTs) to come into school. The RBT must be enrolled as Medicaid provider. SDPBC was already allowing RBTs.
- FL Mental Health Act of 1971 (Baker Act) – law enforcement officers transporting students must restrain in the least restrictive manner appropriate.
- Parental Rights in Education – Parents have a right to decline Health Care services. Students without a signed consent cannot access the nurse services at school. This includes minor first aid such as a band aid, ice pack, or temperature taken.

By-laws proposed changes (Carla Donaldson)

The proposed bylaws were shared. There was a discussion about whether the Chair needs to be the parent of a current student (as opposed to a former student) Motion to approve the bylaws changes presented (Davis-Killian, Pappas) Approved with 14 Years and 1 Nay.

Membership for 2022/2023 (Carla Donaldson)

- Agencies – 4 openings
 - FAU CARD - Mary Ellen Quin-Lunny is stepping down. Motion to keep FAU CARD as an agency member with Suzanne Launder as its representative (Spire-Oh, Estevaz) Unanimous approval.
 - Motion to change membership of Sue Davis-Killian from Parent to the representative of the Gold Coast Down Syndrome Org agency (Davis-Killian, Shenker) Unanimous approval.

- Sharon Tarlow is retiring. She will be sorely missed! Motion to keep JFK as an agency with Michelle Beatty as its representative. (Shenker, Estevez) Unanimous approval.
- Motion to add Andrew's Place as agency with Veronica Pappas as rep (Pappas, Tarlow) After discussion, Veronica Pappas withdrew her motion.
- 3 Graduated Parents – we have three
- Current Parents
 - Motion to add Jacki Walsh as a parent (Davis-Killian, Spire-Oh) Unanimous approval.
 - Motion to add Aimee Thompkins as a parent (Davis-Killian, Gabriel) Unanimous approval.
 - 2 more vacancies
- Teachers
 - Motion to add Lisa Harrison as a teacher. (Davis-Killian, Gabriel) Unanimous approval
- Former ESE student (over the age of 22) – Vacancy

Interventions Vertical Planning Updates (Kevin McCormick)

- Diana Fetterman was leading this initiative. She is no longer in that position. Kevin will follow up with new personnel

Academic Advisory Committee (Randee Gabriel)

- The AAC talked about books because of the new legislation. The district reviewed hundreds of thousands of books and spotted only 13 books that would be moved to 4th/5th grade area of library.

District Diversity and Equity Committee (Kimberly Spire-Oh)

- The DDEC has a subcommittee to review district trainings. They are having trouble getting trainings from police. They have been reviewing mental health trainings.
- Discussed membership of the DDEC. Voted to propose that representatives from the Haitian and homeless and foster communities be added.

Boundary Committee (Carla Donaldson)

- They have not yet met this school year.

Transportation (Joseph Sanches)

- Mr. Sanches did not come today. We have had trouble getting Transportation to come address our concerns.

Director's Report (Kevin McCormick)

- There are many challenges with the new legislative changes with little to no guidance from FDOE.
- They are in the middle of the 11-day count to determine resources.
- We have vacancies in all positions – paras, teachers, bus drivers, etc. These shortages are occurring nationally.
- Transportation – many students were put on private transport. There are lots of issues because of the driver shortage. They are continuing to try to solve this.
- Lisette in Parent Services – just completed a Parent View. 114 parents attended. the topic was the Impact of Trauma on our children. It was so popular that they may schedule a follow-up. FDLRs and SEDNET worked together to do this presentation.
- Implementation of FAST (Florida Assessment of Student Thinking) assessment – Florida's new "reduction" of testing. The new test is all virtual. The test can have accommodations, but they do NOT have paper-based tests. For students that need paper based, FDOE has given other progress monitoring assessments. PM1 Is happening now, PM 2 will be mid-year and PM 3 will be the end of year high-stakes testing. The state has said that the district can determine how to do a paper-based test. The FSAA will remain the same.
- Medicaid is now requiring a diagnosis for treatment for schools to charge for services. When schools charge Medicaid, it does not affect student's Medicaid. This may cause us up \$5 million.
- We have new standards for ELA and Math for grades 6-12. We have a new curriculum for 3-5 grade. K-2 was implemented last year.
- The state visited last year to address Drop-out coding for ESE students. If the right code was not put in, the system automatically marked them as a drop-out.
- The district teamed up with CARD to do a "Peace for Parents" series for parents of children ages 3-6.

Member Comments

- The Exceptional Educators training for teachers who have a student with Down syndrome will be September 21.
- The Downright Extraordinary Walk for Down Syndrome will be October 23 in John Prince Park.
- Kevin thanked Sharon Tarlow for all she has done over the years.

Guest Comments

None

Meeting adjourned at 11:28