



Pointe Coupee Parish School Board

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Pointe Coupee Parish School Board's Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Minutes September 23, 2024

The Pointe Coupee Parish School Board's SEAC meeting was called to order by Chairperson Shay Chauvin at 1:33 PM. Members present were parents; Chairperson Shay Chauvin; Behavior Specialist Jennifer Babin; Exceptional Student Supervisor Mary Wells; and Recorder Kristin Ramsey. Community Member Margaret Griffin participated in the meeting remotely via telephone. Members absent from this meeting were Parents Sara Taylor, Christina Polk, and Kaylee Sievers. Cynthia Chesterfield, a representative of Families Helping Families, was also in attendance.

Chairperson Chauvin welcomed members and guests to the meeting. The minutes from the last meeting of May 20, 2024, were approved and accepted as written by Jennifer Babin and Cynthia Chesterfield.

Ms. Wells stated there was a discussion at the May SEAC meeting regarding community activities for parents and mentioned she is of the opinion that the time to act is now. Ms. Wells announced the Recorder and Secretary of Exceptional Student Services will speak about a Community Event that is scheduled for October 19, 2024. Mrs. Kristin Ramsey handed out a flyer to the members and explained this is a Halloween Spooktacular event sponsored by the Pointe Coupee Autism Community Advocates. She stated it is a free event for families and is also free for businesses in the community to set up a table, provide information, prizes and candy. Mrs. Ramsey suggested that SEAC set up a table with a game and candy, allowing us an opportunity to provide information to our community and parents about available services. She mentioned the event is going to be held at False River Park in New Roads. Mrs. Chauvin questioned if there are funds to purchase items to hand out at the event. Mrs. Wells stated that ESS Funds can be used to purchase items for the event. Mrs. Babin suggested purchasing some type of fidget for the students. SEAC approved Mrs. Ramsey to submit the application to participate in the Pointe Coupee Autism Community event.

Mrs. Wells mentioned that she would like to start posting the upcoming SEAC meetings on our district Facebook page as well as the district website to let parents know when the next meeting will be held. Mrs. Wells stated that parental involvement is still an issue in our community. Mrs. Chesterfield stated that in other school districts there has been great parental involvement when

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they hosted a resource fair. Ms. Wells said that she is extremely interested in hosting an event like this and stated that she would like it to happen during the 2024-2025 school year. She then asked for input of where the resource fair could be held that would accommodate the number of people anticipated to attend this event. While having it at one of the schools' gymnasiums is ideal for some, it is not suitable for students with disabilities. The right venue and location are going to determine whether the parents are going to participate. Ms. Chesterfield suggested having parents RSVP ahead of time for this event and suggested giving out a free dress ticket or an incentive to students that come with their parents or parents' permission. Ms. Wells decided that the Spring would be a wonderful time to have the resource fair. She stated the official date will be announced at the next SEAC meeting in January 2025 and we will discuss vendors to invite to help with the event. Ms. Chesterfield suggested combining the Resource Fair and the SEAC Meeting all at once so the parents could see what the SEAC discusses. The committee said they think it would be too much to do both at one time on that day. After much discussion regarding a venue for the Resource Fair, the committee decided to contact Pastor Jeff Vincent from First Baptist Church in New Roads, as they have a nice gymnasium, kitchen, and a handicapped accessible parking lot need for our parents and students. Kristin Ramsey stated that she will call to schedule a meeting with Pastor Vincent to discuss having the Resource Fair at First Baptist Church.

A Committee decision was made to schedule the next SEAC Meeting for Monday, January 27, 2025, at 1:30 PM, in the boardroom at the Central Office.

Ms. Wells clarified that two additional SEAC meetings are necessary before the current school year ends.

Ms. Wells addressed the next agenda item which was to discuss Special Education Funding. She announced the Legislature voted school district funding. A printout of IDEA funding was provided. IDEA Part B the District received \$780,096.00 with a carryover from 2023-2024 school year of \$601,772.00. Ms. Wells stated that if she did not have the carryover money from year to year, we would not be able to meet our budget. Non-Public schools also receive funding that is calculated by the LDOE. The amount given was \$185,226.00 for two Special Education teachers and a part-time speech pathologist. We have two non-public schools, and each school has a full-time Special Education teacher, and each school has a part-time Speech Pathologist. She also said that if one of the non-public schools does not have enough money to cover a salary, that school will owe the district whatever the difference amount is. IDEA Preschool received \$31,333.00 with a carryover from the 2023-2024 school year of \$15,562.00. We also received additional funding from the state called Set Aside Funds. IDEA received \$28,080.00 and Preschool received \$8,000.00. These funds can only be used to contract with vendors to provide our district with professional development.

Ms. Wells stated that we used our Set Aside Funds to contract ABA Specialist Phil Brocato. A vendor was contracted for Rougon Elementary School in an effort to support students with

disabilities coming out of comprehensive assistance. Ms. Wells also stated that if anyone wanted to see the budget at any time, it is public knowledge and can be viewed in her office.

The next item on the agenda addressed by Ms. Wells was to provide information regarding academic growth. All attendees at the meeting were handed a flyer of what was presented to the district through one of the Diverse Learner calls. Ms. Wells stated that we are making progress in Pointe Coupee. We are not where we need to be, but we were one of the top growth districts that the state recognized for students with disabilities. We were identified as top growth in grades 3-8 with 2% growth and 3% growth for all other grade levels. Ms. Wells also provided everyone with an LEA Determination form which is one year behind (as always because of when the data is received). Ms. Wells stated the information is divided into three different tiers. The first tier is based on graduation rate and assessment. Tier two is based on cohort graduation (if we were disproportionate in any area, our evaluation timeline, and our post-secondary goals). Tier three is based on our preschool program, timely submission of our early intervening services, any outstanding audit fiscal findings and any corrective action plans. The form stated that we were not under corrective action, and we met the state criteria. Ms. Wells stated that this is like a report card to see where we are and if anyone has any questions you can always ask her. The committee was pleased to see and hear the results.

Chairperson Chauvin asked if anyone had any questions or input regarding this meeting.

Having no further questions or input from the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:18 p.m.