



LOUDOUN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Ad Hoc Committee on Special Education

Beth Huck, Chair

SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES

September 13, 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; Joy Engstrom, special education supervisor; Megan Wagner, special education supervisor alternate; Bridget Gorey, special education supervisor alternate; Lori Mercer, principal; Bridget Beichler, principal alternate; Heidi Smith, principal alternate; Kirk Dolson, principal alternate; Deana Czaban, parent; Nicki McMahon, parent; Jill Pope, parent; Chris Croll, Gifted Services; Karen Berlin, BCBA; Craig Metz, SEAC; Shehnaz Khan, SEAC; Lorraine Hightower, SEAC past-chair; Sharon Tropf, SEAC past-vice chair

Other Board members and staff present: Jeff Morse, Chair, School Board; Tom Marshall, Board member; Michael Richards, Chief of Staff.

Absent: Donna Smith, special education supervisor; Toni DeLuca Evans, special education supervisor alternate; Doug Anderson, principal; Beth Robinson, principal; VonEnde Coleman, MSAAC

- I. **Approval of Minutes.** The committee reviewed minutes from the meeting held on August 30, 2018. Ms. Sheridan made the motion to approve. Seconded by Ms. Rose. The minutes were approved 16-0-4 with committee amendments (absent: Donna Smith, special education supervisor; Doug Anderson, principal; Beth Robinson, principal; VonEnde Coleman, MSAAC).
- II. **Public Comment.** Ms. Heidi Bankua addressed restraint and seclusion. Ms. Bankua voiced concern regarding teacher abuse from students. Ms. Bankua posed two questions: (1) "What are we doing to support our teachers?" (2) "Do we need more resources?" Ms. Bankua stated, "Reinstate programs would eliminate concerns" and referenced music therapy.

Ms. Huck made an exception to read the Public Comment into record from Eileen Shaffer. Ms. Shaffer noted two concerns: (1) need vocational/technical educator opportunities; (2) parents are withdrawing students due to trauma with restraint/seclusion.

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III. Presentation: Mandt/Restraint/Seclusion.

Dr. Joy Engstrom, supervisor, autism services and Alison Lyons, behavior specialist, shared a presentation to provide information on the Mandt system, the current approach used in schools to train staff on techniques for working with students to prevent escalation in behavior and provide intervention as needed in situations of risk or harm or injury to staff or students. The committee discussed the appropriateness of expanding training beyond the current requirements which identify special education teachers and members of the Behavior Intervention Team (BIT) to include other school staff. The use of PBIS and other building and classroom systems that support positive school climate, relationship-building, and positive interactions for prevention and intervention were included. A comparison of Mandt to programs/approaches used in other schools and divisions was provided. Mandt continues to be the selected approach in Loudoun because it has the components we have determined are appropriate including a defined/limited timeline for restraint which is significantly shorter than other approaches (3 minutes compared to 20 minutes). The Mandt Academy will begin implementation in October, which will expand the availability of training by allowing for up to two (2) trainers in each building.

IV. Planned Activity: Restraint and Seclusion Guidelines.

Dr. Jones and Dr. Jimenez reviewed the 2017-2018 Guidelines for Restraint and Seclusion. Highlighted changes were discussed including the renaming of the document to the Regulations for Restraint and Seclusion, changes to the timeline of notification to the parent from within 24 hours to same day notification, explicit prohibition of aversive stimuli, and definition and explicit prohibition of pharmacological restraint. The committee discussed the changes highlighted to date.

V. Next Steps.

For next steps, Dr. Jones and Dr. Jimenez will continue the activity to review the proposed Regulations for Restraint and Seclusion. Committee members will receive a copy of the "Red-lined" version of the Regulations and are asked to annotate their copy for discussion in the next meeting.

Ms. Huck gave a reminder for the next meeting on September 20, 2018, at 3:30 p.m. in Room 102 A/B.

VI. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.