

Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)
Meeting Notes

Date: August 28, 2019

Location: Austin ISD, CAC, A-300

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order at 6:10 pm

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Lance Kinney	Maria Hernandez
Brian Mangum	Patricia Carley
Jolene Sanders	Enrique Trejo

STAFF MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chad Ouellette, Dawnette McKinney, Leonor Vargas, Jennifer Limon

GUEST IN ATTENDANCE:

Leonor Vargas- Parent Engagement Austin ISD

Lisa Flores- Parent

WELCOME AND PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- A parent expressed concern/suggestions over the following items
 - Adding SPED on the Superintendent Scorecard.
 - Suggested 100% of Principals be trained in best practices throughout the school year.
 - The need for Special Education representation at district-wide meetings.
 - Requested community input for programs and services that we purchase.
 - There was no representation at the Middle School fair no SPED representation.
 - SPED website is not welcoming.

SETTING SY 19-20 MEETING DATES:

- Upcoming meetings will be at Southfield in a larger space
- Talked about SEAC member applications
- Reminded committee about attendance rule
- Looking to offer Adobe Connect, Zoom or Skype as an option
- SEAC would like to offer translators to encourage membership
- Adding meetings to district-calendar
- The upcoming meeting dates were not set. Dates to come

DATA REVIEW AND UPDATES:

- The Special Education Social Services position will be filled. We are looking for an individual that is a high energy, high impact, experienced individual. We have applicants but we will only hire the right person to fill the job. The question was asked how long it will take, normally it's about 2 weeks to fill the position once a recommendation for employment is in place.
- Adding New Members
 - The capacity of the meeting will be based on the size of the meeting location.

- We are looking for a space that will allow for more members.
- We are wanting more input and opportunities for members to have input for the district.
- We are looking at other ways to get knowledge of the committee out to parents and staff.
- SEAC members are encouraging former students to apply to be members and not be too heavy on district staff. The committee asked for a blurb to handout to encourage participation.

DISCUSS OPENING MEETING FOR AUSTIN ISD STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION:

- On Friday, August 16, 2019, the Special Education department had its Inaugural Convocation. For Convocation, we brought all related services team members together for the first time. During our time together, we rolled out our plan for the year, announced upcoming Special Education tools, and talked about the new Professional Learning Network Teams.

HOT TOPICS FOR THE COMMITTEE:

- **Professional Development and programs**

The district has several programs that they are launching or expanding.

- Accelify- <https://vimeo.com/256945891>
 - Will help with the scheduling of services and accountability of delivery of services
 - Accelify has an IEP system that we are exploring. Effective in larger districts ex. Broward County, New Orleans, etc. It allows the translation of documents into 7 different languages. The program has been vetted by our IT Department.
- Goalbook- <https://vimeo.com/329445145>
 - Builds goals and instruction for each individual student
 - Gina Sudyka Ginas@goalbookapp.com- contact
- Teachtown- <https://youtu.be/TOEcnmFy4xo>
 - Lesson design and small group use
 - Teaching social skills
- ULS-<https://youtu.be/g-wPGrDJGvc>
- Lead4Ward- <https://lead4ward.com/>
- We have partnered with GenEd PD training to facilitate training in the same way.

EXPLORING DONORS FOR REGULAR EVENT AND INCREASE COMMUNICATION:

- Austin ISD Special Education Website
 - The website for SPED used to have priorities section (Increase ARD attendance, increase the graduation rate)
 - The department is looking to publish staffing guidelines, curriculum listings, flow-charts for staffing request, and a flow-charts of services
 - The department is hoping to define classrooms and provide information on what those classrooms look like, the types of training that each staff member needs, and classroom expectations.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT AND ROLES:

- In the by-laws, it states that we can have sub-committees. If the board wants to take on specific projects and present at upcoming meetings.
 - Members shared that there were once sub-committees in place prior to the by-laws. It allowed for a more active role and voice from the group.
 - Sub-committee recommendations to come

QUESTION/ANSWER:

There was a question and answer session between the committee, Chad Ouellette and Dawnette McKinney. Questions included PPCD, Principal Training, and Staffing and Retention.

MEETING CLOSED AT 8:30 PM