



Warren County Special Education Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 10, 2025

Location: 465 W. 15th St, Front Royal, VA 22630

Please note these minutes are a draft and will be approved at April's meeting.

- **Call to Order & Welcome**

Opening Comments: Ms. Griffith, Chair at 6:08pm

Introductions of board members, members and visitors. Welcoming guest speakers.

Board Members (bold are present): Sarah Griffith, Winnie Ehlinger, Erick Robinson

SEAC Members (bold are present): Colin Miller, Marcellus Ehlinge,

Carolyn Sheppard, Ignatius Ehlinger, Lori Adams, Kelly Shaffer.

Special Education Consultants: Danelle Sperling, Dena Lee

- **Public Input:**

Ms. Sheppard made a comment to ask about sharing the flyer for the schools pertaining to Child Find. Ms. Griffith asked Ms. Vacca if the flyers/info are passed out to schools that are not public education such as private schools.

Ms. Adams asked if there is any work on the implementation of the shut down of the Federal Department of Education.

- **October 21, 2024 Meeting Minutes were approved by the SEAC Board with a few corrections added.**

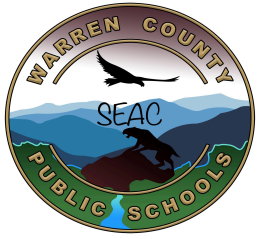
- **Special Services Update:**

Mrs. Sperling gave an update on the Youth Leadership Academy. The deadline for this is March 28, 2025. Also, VCU has a Steering Committee of other students and adults with disabilities. A guide for communities for people with disabilities.

Mrs. Lee is the PEATC and Special Education Liaison. There is a lot of information on the Special Services website. This information would be helpful with SEAC. Lots of information on how to prepare for IEP and also advocacy. Website for Parent Family Liaison: <https://www.wcpsva.org/liaison>

Ms. Griffith, Chair, asked can we send this checklist and information out to parents and teachers Bootcamp for IEPS brought to the attention of the SEAC chair. A vote will be taken by the board due to a process of time and effort that will have to take place.

Ms. Shaffer feels we should have the bootcamp. She feels what is there does not apply informatively to secondary students. This would help the students advocate as well. This may be a 2 day event. Members would need to get together to collaborate on the information, like a breakout session.



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Mrs. Sheppard agrees with bootcamp as sometimes the parents don't understand the steps and need to be more informed and help the process be more appropriate for the students' education.

Ms. Griffith, Chair and Erick Robinson, Secretary will talk with Kate the PEATC Rep. The SEAC Board will need to try and pick a date. Mrs. Lee stated that we should really break it up, as it is a lot of information. Chair: what if we do a planning session at the end of the school year and do modules at each

meeting instead of guest speakers. Possibilities of how to add this in and or around SEAC Meetings. No speakers next school year and do iep boot camp. Possibly change the time for SEAC meetings at 5:30 and IEP Boot Camp at 6pm. The SEAC Board will do a "prep" on April 7th at 5:30 for SEAC bootcamp.

- **Guest Speakers:**

Jessica Vacca with Warren County Public Schools Early Intervention Preschool Coordinator. Discussed the process of Child Find and screening process along with referrals.

Questions at end of presentation:

Mrs. Adams asked about the process of students who are not in public schools. Ms. Vacca explained that the student(s) would go to their school's district school.

Megan with Connective Community Services. Explain that Connective Community Services is already in the WCPS system. They provide school based counseling services for students with therapeutic mentoring services for mental health.

Questions at end of presentation:

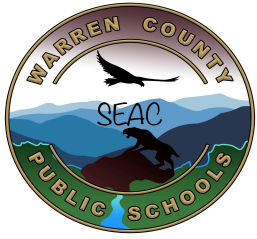
Ms. Shaffer asked if they have a child in school, how does that process work? Megan explained the application's referral process and mentioned that the school counselors also have their information with Connective Community Services. Megan explained that with the support of Connective Community Services, there has been a greater attendance.

Winnie asked about how the process works for an aged out student of WCPS. Megan explained that if the child is transitioning out of school then the setting may be different such as in office services. There is no age limit for these services.

Ms. Vacca asked about students that are younger such as 3 and younger. Megan explained that they would still provide the younger children services as well, as there is no age restriction.

Mrs. Lee, asked if these students have to have a specific profile. Such as behavior etc..

Megan stated the answer is no, they will assess the child to see if they can work with them. Typically there is someone on staff at Connective Community Services that can work with most of the students and their mental health needs. They also can typically work efficiently with a non-verbal children as well.



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Ms. Adams asked so the students do not have to have an IEP for Connective Community Services for therapy and services?

Megan answered that no, they will accept referrals for any issue pertaining to mental health.

Mrs. Shepherd made a comment about how she is an administrator at Ressie Jeffries Elementary and how this helps the students with trauma etc. She speaks highly of this service.

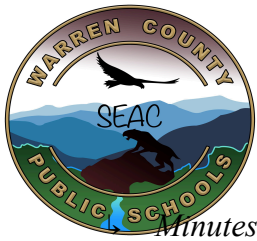
Chair, stated that play therapy wasn't even around here in Warren County for the longest time for students with disability.

- **Community Input:** No Community Input.
- **Update on approval to purchase SEAC items:**
Special Services Director, Danelle Sperling said she will have to get back to the board and committee on this.
- **Teacher Member Update:**
Mr. Collin Miller, Teacher Representative. We are working closely with DARS. We are on a good track as there are only so many spots for the World of Work for our Elements student's. All in all everything is going very well.
- **Member update:**
The Warren County School Board meeting in June. Ms. Griffith and Mr. Erick Robinosn will have to attend on June 4th. for the annual report to present to the School Board members. Also, two parents asked Ms. Griffith, Chair about discipline issues with Special Education students. Such as when there is violence involved. Are we holding manifestations? What are the policy's? timeline?

Mrs. Sperling will update us on this.

- **Community Events:**
Winnie gave updates on the upcoming community events. SHS events was presented by
- Motion made to adjourn meeting at 7:10pm. Motion made by Mr. Miller to adjourned the meeting. Mrs. Sheppard and Mrs. Schaffer second motion. Meeting adjourned.

↳ Next Meeting: Monday April 28, 2025 at 6:00pm



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Minutes completed by: Erick Robinson, SEAC Secretary