

# **WARREN COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

**School Year 2021-2022**

**October 12, 2022**

## **Introduction**

The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) is mandated under the Virginia Board of Education Regulations for Special Education and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Our mission is as follows:

The Special Education Advisory Committee seeks to advise the Superintendent and School Board of any needs regarding the education of children with special needs and disabilities, and to collaboratively serve as a resource of support and information for all individuals involved in educating children with special needs and disabilities.

In doing so, we aim to better serve all children within Warren County, Virginia.

SEAC meets at least four times per year, generally on the third Monday of each month, at the Warren County Public Schools Special Services/Diversified Minds location: 465 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 500, Front Royal, VA 22630. We aim to have a membership comprised of parents of children at all levels of education, preschool, elementary, middle, and high school, interested community members, one voting teacher member. School division employees may serve as consultants.

## **Executive Committee**

**Chair:** vacant position  
(Interim Chair: Gina Casella)

**Secretary:** vacant position  
(Interim Secretary: Crissa Breeden)

**Treasurer:** vacant position  
**Vice Chair:** Winnie Ehlinger  
**Teaching Member:** Colin Miller

## **SEAC WCPS Employee Consultants**

Michael Hirsch, Director of Special Services

## **Outcomes**

For the **2021-2022 school year**, the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) continued to support students with disabilities throughout the year. The

advisory committee took advantage of virtual technology during the pandemic and continues to provide this option for families. The committee met quarterly this year and will continue this schedule going forward.

Meetings were held:

- September 27, 2021 with a presentation on the Federal Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Performance Report
- November 15, 2021 with a presentation on Mindfulness and Project Courage
- March 14, 2022 with a presentation on “The Role of Social Workers in Schools”
- May 16, 2022 with a tour of the Elements Program.

### **Projected Meeting Dates for 2022-2023 School Year**

September 19, 2022 @ 6pm, at Diversified Minds

November 14, 2022 @ 4pm, in conjunction with ARC of Warren at Diversified Minds

March 17, 2023 @ 10am, Skyline High School Pathways and Connections Coffee Cart

May 15, 2023 @ 11am, Elements program at Santmyers Youth Center

### **Projected Goals for 2021-2022 School Year**

1. Increase membership
2. Expand knowledge by visiting programs in the schools
3. Collaborate with other community organizations for students with disabilities

### **2022-2023 School Year Theme**

SEAC is focusing on increasing collaboration with other community organizations and increasing knowledge of the programs offered in the school system programs throughout the year.

### **Prospective Members for 2022-2023 School Year**

Helen Gauth  
Ignatius Ehlinger  
Carol Olson

Winifred Ehlinger  
Marcellos Ehlinger  
Darlene Kelly

## **Expression of Appreciation and Conclusion**

We would like to express our thanks and appreciation to the following persons who have showed support for SEAC in the past year:

- Dr. Christopher Ballenger, Division Superintendent, for supporting educators and the work that SEAC does and attending the September 21, 2020 SEAC meeting.
- Michael Hirsch, Director of Special Services, for the consultative support he provides to our committee.
- Crissa Breeden, Special Services Administrative Assistant, for her assistance copying and distributing meeting materials, and taking meeting minutes.
- Susan Smith, School Psychologist, for her assistance in compiling the Special Education/SEAC Quarterly E-Newsletter.
- Colin Miller, Transition Coordinator, for his ongoing and enthusiastic participation as SEAC's Teacher Member.

We are proud to travel with our school community on the Warren County Public Schools to support every student, every day and we look forward to the coming school year.

Submitted by,

Winnie Ehlinger, Vice-Chair  
Warren County Public Schools  
Special Education Advisory Committee