**Avoyelles Parish Special Education Advisory Panel Annual Report- School Year 2022-2023**

**APSB SEAP Members for 2022-2023**

1. Parent- Ms. Monica Rabalais
2. Parent- Ms. Carington Ramos
3. Parent- Ms. Ms. Monica Laborde
4. Parent- Megan Carmouche
5. Stakeholder- Ms. Shontell Cooper
6. Stakeholder- Ms. Susan Fournett
7. Teacher- Ms. Stacy Bordelon
8. Chairperson- Ms. Dawn Pitre

The Avoyelles Parish Special Education Advisory Panel met on the following dates:

December 14, 2022

January 19, 2023

May 19, 2023

Positive outcomes from the 2022-2023 APSB SEAP Committee Members:

* Increased the amount of SEAP members
* Increased the collaboration between Eckerd Connects Wraparound Agencies as we work together to support the needs of our students, families, and communities
* Increased the collaboration with the Head start Program as we work together to support the needs of our students, families, and communities
* Number of SEAP meetings increased to meet state requirements and law

**December 14, 2022 Meeting Highlights**

SEAP Members Present: Dawn Pitre, Stacy Bordelon, Shontell Cooper, Susan Fournett, Monica Laborde, Monica Rabalais

The meeting began by Mrs. Dawn Pitre discussing the SEAP BY- LAWS and informing the committee members of the purpose of the APSB SEAP which includes but is not limited to the following:

* Advise the local school division of needs in the education of children with disabilities
* Participate in the development of priorities and strategies for meeting the identified needs of children with disabilities
* Submit periodic reports and recommendations regarding the education of children with disabilities to the division superintendent for transmission to the local school board.
* Review the policies and procedures for the provision of special education and related services prior to submission to the local school board
* Participate and review of the local school divisions annual plan

Membership terms were then read with discussion centered on active members and terms of members which is two years.

It was decided by the SEAP committee that election of officers needed to occur during this meeting and not in May since we were beginning a new year. Officers were elected following Roberts Rules of Order.

Chair- Dawn Pitre

Vice Chair- Stacy Bordelon

Vice Chair of Membership- Susan Fournett

Secretary- Shontelle Cooper

The SEAP handbook was reviewed by all members. Emphasis was placed on purpose, membership, officers, meetings and confidentiality.

Mrs. Dawn Pitre gave an overview of the special education department including the number of personnel employed and the number of students with disabilities.

**Discussions:**

Discussions about next month’s Family Engagement Fair and how to represent Special Education. We decided that we would order pamphlets and that each of us would have a “hands on” activity for the parents to engage in when they visited our station.

We set the next meeting for January 19, 2023.

**January 19, 2023 Meeting Highlights:**

SEAP Members Present: Dawn Pitre, Shontelle Cooper, Susan Fournett, Stacy Bordelon

Minutes from the December 14, 2022 meeting approved.

**Discussions:**

1. Members of the SEAP committee discussed ways to promote awareness of students with disabilities in the community. Ms. Dawn Pitre suggested we could have an Autism Awareness Week. Ms. Stacy Bordelon suggested we could do more parental engagement activities through our Child Search team.
2. Member set April as a tentative date for the next SEAP meeting.
3. SEAP members then participated in a Parental Involvement Fair in order to raise awareness for students with disabilities. Informational brochures and pamphlets were given to parents and community members about services such as Eckerd Connects Wraparound Agency, Head Start, and Child Search. SEAP members were also available to answer questions

**May 19, 2023 Meeting Highlights:**

SEAP MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dawn Pitre, Stacy Bordelon, Shontell Cooper, Monica Laborde

Minutes from the January 19, 2023 meeting were approved.

**Discussions:**

1. Mrs. Dawn Pitre, Supervisor of Special Education for the Avoyelles Parish School Board presented the SEAP with information regarding summer learning opportunities for students enrolled in the district. Some of the opportunities include credit recovery, credit enrichment, Leap Remediation, Welding, Emergency Medical Respondent, and Summer Literacy Camp for students in grades Prek-8 grade. All of these opportunities are available free of charge. Meals will also be served free of charge. Bus transportation is provided. Our SWDs who are on an alternate pathway for graduation (LEAP Connect) will engage in a great hands on, exploratory summer learning unit.
2. Ms. Cathy Lemoine, Transition Coordinator for the Avoyelles Parish Schools addressed our SEAP committee about our partnership with Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) and the services that they provide free of charge to our students. She spoke about the classroom component of Pre-ETS and how our SWDs benefit from the topics that the program covers. She spoke about the paid employment opportunities our SWDs have in the schools currently and how we are looking to expand this next school year. As a committee we brainstormed ways to get this message out to the parents so that they could know more about LRS and the services they provide.
3. Mrs. Dawn Pitre asked the SEAP committee for direction/input on improving the SEAP committee. Members were asked to email thoughts/topics on what they would like to discuss at upcoming meetings.
4. Supervisor Dawn Pitre spoke to the committee about a Special Education Prom that was recently held in Marksville, LA for our SWDs. It was very rewarding and heartfelt to see our students be able to dress up and interact with their non-disabled peers.
5. Next meeting tentatively scheduled for September 2023 at the Avoyelles Parish School Board in Marksville, La.