

# SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL (SEAP) MEETING

Elmore County-Elmore County Board of Education

MINUTES: March 20, 2019

9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

## Panel Members in attendance: 14

Jeana Winter- Chairperson  
Amy Blakeney  
Ree Clark  
Lisa Olenik Dorman  
Graham L. Sisson, Jr.

Todd Tomerlin-Vice Chairperson  
Corrie Merchant  
Adriane Creel  
Pamela Fossett  
Kay Sprayberry

Amy Williamson  
Temeyra T. McElrath  
Valencia Curry  
Jewell Pitts

Panel Members attending via webcast: 00

Panel Members NOT in attendance: 16

Individuals from the public: 15

Invited guests: 0

Participating by webcast: 01

ALSDE staff: 09

Interpreters: 02

## CALL TO ORDER

Jeana Winter, SEAP Chairperson

- Welcome to SEAP and thank you Elmore County Board of Education for hosting us. We have several members out due to spring break and illnesses. I also would like to welcome the people joining us by You Tube Live.
- Roll Call completed by Jeana Winter, Chairperson.
- Dr. Elisabeth Davis, Assistant State Superintendent of Education, Office of Student Learning, Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), welcomed everyone. Dr. Davis and Celeste Minor reported on the Education Trust Funds (ETF) monies allocated by the legislator for the purpose of special education professional development. Celeste Minor joined Dr. Davis to discuss how the ETF monies will be used for PD.
  - A Boardmanship booklet for special education is being developed to be provided to all school board members. Panel members were asked to send any topic suggestions for the booklet to Susan Goldthwaite at [sgoldthwaite@alsde.edu](mailto:sgoldthwaite@alsde.edu).
  - The information in the Boardmanship booklet will be discussed at nine regional trainings hosted by Alabama Association of School Boards (AASB).
  - Professional development has been provided at AASB's conference.
  - The "Help Guide for Administrators" is being updated and will be provided at MEGA Conference in multiple sessions.
  - Dr. Davis shared about a new professional development that will be offered for anyone wanting to increase their knowledge about special education. It will be introduced through a pilot group that focuses on administrators.
- Review of October 17, 2018, SEAP minutes; called for a motion to approve the October 17, 2018, minutes. Seconded, and approved without objection.

# SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL (SEAP) MEETING

Elmore County-Elmore County Board of Education

MINUTES: March 20, 2019

9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Public Comments**—Please stay within the four-minute time limit when speaking.

Three people made public comments regarding preschool, student proficiency, and auditory verbal training.

Erika Richburg, Education Administrator for Special Education Services (SES), reported on the state budget and informed everyone that the proposed budget is on the website to be reviewed and make comments. The preschool funding is very low but the state makes all the funds available to the LEAs. There are assurances listed that let you know what we have to meet and we have groupings of where the money will be spent. There is funding set aside to offer more services that address achievement, set aside ten percent of the state budget for the High Cost Fund (HCF) which is for students who have the greatest needs. The HCF allows SES to get funding to the local education agencies that are in great need due to specific situations. You have until April 15 to make comments on the budget or you may contact Crystal Richardson.

The link to the budget is on the opening page of the ALSDE website. Crystal added that the panel should have received a memo that gave the update.

Jeana Winter requested to approve the minutes. Minutes moved for motion to approve, seconded and approved.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**SEAP Chairperson:** Asked committees to make reports.

### Bylaws

- we need to include language to describe e-vote.
- Panel member question asked: what is the procedure for moving the motions forward once they are approved? The chair stated that other committees submit their suggestions and recommendations, request a reply from the entity, and then they respond with their plan, update or whether it can or cannot be done.
- any requirements to make an official report and SES responded no. The member requested that the chair use his expertise to add the language to the bylaws.

**Membership**—Still have groups that aren't represented. The committee has compiled a list of each members area and are looking at what areas need to have a standing membership. The membership committee would like to make recommendations as to which positions would be standing or rotate. Would like this considered in the bylaws.

**Public Relations**—The committee chair is not present today. Another member on the committee mentioned that pictures will be taken today for our website. There has been a template laid out for a head shot of each member and their areas of responsibilities.

# SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL (SEAP) MEETING

Elmore County-Elmore County Board of Education

MINUTES: March 20, 2019

9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

## PRIORITY COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Leadership**—The chair said she appreciated the updates on the request by the committee regarding proposals and how the ETF monies will be spent. To Nancy's point, we want to focus on growth and then also look at work load versus case load and how it impacts that services the students receive.

*At the meeting in July*, Jeana wants to discuss what we want to hone in on for the upcoming year and review our priorities from the past year.

**Mental Health**—Mental health services has been doing very well and has 52 programs in the schools and looking at adding 10 more. A flyer was provided that explains the process. There is a representative from SES that assists with coordinating that work.

**Preschool**—At the last five meetings there have been comments about needing preschool funding. The chair understands that this happens in many states. The chair would like to make this a key area for the July meeting and make specific decisions about what actions that SEAP would take. Crystal shared that Dr. Mackey made a request to the legislators that more funding be provided. The ALSDE is working towards trying to address this need. Jeana stated many parts of the state have children receiving no services. We need to see how to approach this need and make sure that the public is aware of accurate knowledge about preschool funding and who is receiving the funds. The population is growing and the needs are diverse. Through the Department of Early Childhood Education (DECE) they are randomly selected and many children with disabilities are not receiving the services they need.

**Transition**—Research shows that parent participation and work training opportunities are the greatest ways to impact student success. Want to find out from the ALSDE what is being offered and then decide what our focus should be in the future. Good planning does make a difference. Crystal shared that we may not have the data but we can send out a survey.

Jeana stated that everything is addressed through the bylaws and the chair shared that anyone may email suggestions and it will be considered. Also, this committee has done a great job moving forward and building processes. The chair stated again that the bylaws really seem to be supportive of the goal of the committees.

A member updated us on the inclusive schools' week and shared a presentation. The initiative is growing and includes a proclamation from Governor Ivey. Inclusive Schools' Week help administrators consider what is happening at their schools and consider what they are doing to be inclusive. Also, another initiative is about school safety and inclusive schools and how various drills effect certain children. We celebrate Down Syndrome Day on July 19th and Autism Awareness Day is celebrated on April 2nd.

Jeana said thank you for sharing all the different types of ways that communities acknowledge inclusive schools and that we see that all schools have different needs. Also, April is important for Autism Awareness and Child Abuse Awareness and we know that children with disabilities are at a higher risk for abuse throughout their life. We see that everything is cyclical and as we think about the things that are happening then we can bring more awareness.

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL (SEAP) MEETING

Elmore County-Elmore County Board of Education

MINUTES: March 20, 2019

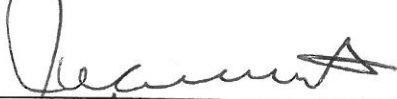
9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Dr. Tony Thacker, ALSDE, spoke on Alabama's ESSA plan and how it relates to students with disabilities.

Kathy Padgett, ALSDE, spoke on the Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program (ACAP).

Next meeting in late July or August.

APPROVED:



Jeanna Winters  
AL SEAP Chairperson

*Jeanna Winters*



Susan Goldthwaite  
AL SEAP Facilitator