

# Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) Virtual Meeting

MINUTES: October 14, 2020

9:30 am- Noon

## Panel Members in attendance:

Jeana Winter - Chairperson	Todd Tomerlin- Vice Chairperson	
Amy Blakeney	Shakela Johnson-Ford	Lori S. Skidmore
Dustin Chandler	Jassetta Manning-Jones	James M. Williams
Lisa Clayton	Temeyra McElrath	Amy Williamson
Adriane Creel	Corrie Merchant	
Kristen Dial	Jewel C. Pitts	
Lisa Dorman	Renate Rice	
Pamela Fossett	Graham L. Sisson, Jr.	
Tasha Harrison-Betts		

## Call to Order - SEAP Chairperson, Jeana Winter

- Greetings.
- Roll call.

## Minutes of September 2020 Meeting - approved with no changes

**Nomination of new term effective June 2020** – approved with no objections, per the SEAP bylaws they will continue to serve a four-year term of service, until June 2024

- Mark Williams
- Graham Sisson

## Public Comments Read Aloud - SEAP Chairperson, Jeana Winter

- There were no public comments submitted to the panel.

## Discussion of Current Pandemic Concerns

- K. Dial – increase in homelessness in the state of Alabama, due to downturn of economy and weather **related** (i.e. hurricane Sally and hurricane Delta);
  - Hurricane victims - temporary housing in a different school district
  - Double families in housing
- C. Merchant – What is the plan for school districts moving forward regarding funding availability for compensatory education to LEA's?
  - Plan to measure loses or gains of knowledge students with disabilities
- L. Skidmore – SWD's not able to receive virtual services, some school districts do not have anything in place
- T. McElrath – shortage of teachers to provides services to SWDs
- T. Tomerlin – virtual vs. in-class options were not well planned for SWDs, lack of teachers (retired, did not return, quit, not available), no education knowledge gain for SWDs
- L. Dorman – discussion regarding IHE decrease in enrollment, survey of graduates

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- D. Chandler – how is the legislature informed of the special education teacher shortage? Is there an ALSDE lobbyist? Legislative liaison?
- R. Rice, C. Merchant, J. Winter – data request link, code requirements are not fitting the growing needs of special education, past vs. 2020 needs, (i.e. shortage of certified teachers/staff in the area of autism)

### Setting Priority

- J. Winter - How do we close the achievement gap for SWDs?
- A. Creel - Increase special education teachers and staff in LEA's?
- C. Merchant - COVID recovery: measure gains or losses of educational knowledge for SWD's during virtual delivery of services; compensatory education?

### Bylaws Amendment Draft

- There will be a draft of the Bylaws available for the panel review by the next meeting, 12/9

**Adjournment** - Jeana Winter, SEAP Panel Chairperson

**Next SEAP Panel Meeting Date** – SAVE THE DATE - December 9, 2020