

2023-2024 Special Education Advisory Council Members

Dr. Brent Vidrine

Sam Moore

Rochelle Williams

Jamekia Dial-Hunter

Kimberly Foster

LaRochelle Wooten

Sandra Norsworthy

Shontae Johnson

Jalaine Price

Meeting Dates/ Location: 2900 Auburn Avenue Monroe, LA 71021

October 24, 2023 (03:00-03:50)

February 27, 2024 (03:05-04:01)

April 30, 2024 (03:00-03:45)

Meeting High Points:

October 24, 2023- Council members were introduced by playing a “Guess Who” icebreaker. Members in attendance were Dr. Vidrine, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Hunter, Ms. Foster, Mrs. Wooten, Mrs. Norsworthy, and Ms. Johnson. Meeting norms were established and graciously accepted. Highlighted norms were *respect each other, listen to understand, focus on agenda topics, and to remain cognizant of the time.*

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Wooten. Dr. Vidrine welcomed the committee as he reintroduced everyone for roll call.

The revised handbook was reviewed and explained in detail by Mrs. Hunter.

The parent perspective was led by Ms. Johnson. She spoke of the progression of support that she and her son had received over the past year and wants to encourage other parents

to speak up and speak out. She stated that advocacy and parental involvement is attributed to her son's success as well.

Mrs. Foster discussed The Baily Group and her observations. Select special education inclusion teachers were chosen to receive one-to-one coaching and guidance to improve overall effectiveness. Sessions will be ongoing throughout the year.

Mrs. Hunter discussed the installation of sensory paths in many of our schools with self-contained classrooms. These pads are to help aid in the physical, cognitive, and social growth of our students.

Ms. Foster shared data from Lexia, Zearn, and Unique. The committee was able to view many gains and access what areas need improvement.

Mrs. Williams gave a meeting recap and informed the committee of the upcoming Special Education Law Conference on November 6th and 7th.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50pm.

February 27, 2024- Mrs. Wooten called the meeting to order at 3:05 as we waited to establish quorum. Members in attendance were Mr. Moore, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Wooten, Ms. Foster, Mrs. Hunter, Mrs. Norsworthy, Mrs. Price, and Ms. Johnson. Co-superintendent Sam Moore welcomed everyone and expressed his appreciation for their roles on the committee.

There was a motion by Mrs. Norsworthy to change our agenda item, parent perspective to teacher perspective. The motion was seconded by Ms. Johnson, and all committee members were in favor.

Ms. Foster reminded everyone of the meeting norms and reviewed the handbook revisions for the first-time members.

Mrs. Norsworthy led the teacher's perspective by sharing information learned at the University of Louisiana at Monroe's Project Discovery Training. Key points were the adaptability of the program and how easy it is to implement. She explained the assessments, digital files, certificates of completion, and how beneficial these resources will be to our students. We were able to view and manipulate a sample childcare set. The committee was impressed with the lesson plans, materials, and the relation to real life experiences.

Mrs. Williams gave details concerning summer enrichment for our self-contained students. These students will have four weeks of thematic based learning experiences,

ending each week with a community-based trip to complete the lesson. Transportation, breakfast, and lunch will be provided. The teachers are planning for impactful and engaging lessons all while making learning fun.

Ms. Foster reported updates on the upcoming Gumbo Races (Games Uniting Mind and Body). Our students with disabilities and other districts were invited to participate in relay races at Louisiana Tech University. The goal of GUMBO is to encourage students with disabilities to be active, confident, competitive, and disciplined. Ms. Foster organized registration and transportation for our participants.

Mrs. Wooten reported on our district's special education self-study timeline. This is a process in which we as a team review random IEP folders and provide feedback to our teachers. Schools are selected based on rotations.

Mrs. Hunter presented a layout of the University of Louisiana at Monroe's ACE (Academics, Career, Engagement, Support) Program. This program allows students who have specific cognitive disabilities to attend college. These students will have the opportunity to audit courses and take specially designed classes that would provide certification for different jobs through the Education Associates Project Discovery Program. Mrs. Hunter reported that we have four students that will submit in hopes of being chosen as a candidate.

Mrs. Hunter also reported on the provider service seminar that was held earlier in February. Our students and parents were invited to a transition fair to communicate with various community agencies. Some agencies included Louisiana Rehabilitation Services, Families Helping Families, Adult day habilitation programs, individual living facilities, all branches of the military, Delta Community College, Celebrity Beauty School of Cosmetology, and many more. Every parent was able to gain knowledge of resources to aid in daily life and transition.

Mrs. Williams gave a recap of the meeting and reminded everyone of the next meeting date.

The meeting adjourned at 4:01pm.

April 30, 2024- The meeting was called to order by LaRochelle Wooten. Members in attendance at roll call were Mr. Moore, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Wooten, Ms. Foster, Mrs. Norsworthy, Mrs. Price, and Ms. Johnson. Mrs. Hunter entered later.

The parent perspective was led by Mrs. Price. She expressed concern for the future of all students with special needs. She questioned what resources were available now and after graduation.

Mrs. Williams distributed a Monroe City Schools directory that includes the name, number, and location of personnel within the district and community resources beneficial to all parents. Mrs. Williams also explained at length social, transition, and vocational skills that our students are involved in daily. It was assured that learning these skills is an ongoing part of the educational process in Monroe City Schools.

Mrs. Hunter reiterated and spoke of the provider service seminar held in February and the partnership with Louisiana Rehabilitation Services.

Focused agenda discussions were the Baily Group Bootcamps. Mrs. Wooten gave updates on the camps. These camps were designed to boost Leap scores for our inclusion students with special needs. It was reported that overall, the teachers and students were receptive, the students learned testing tips, calculator tricks, and easier ways to solve problems while saving time.

Next, Ms. Foster discussed our GUMBO games. Our district took part in a “Special Olympic” type event in which most of the students came out victorious. With the help of APE and classroom teachers, the students participated in relays sensitive to their physical and cognitive abilities. We had over 100 students to participate and they are looking forward to returning next year.

Mrs. Williams discussed the last item on the agenda, the LDOE parent survey. A survey was sent to every parent of our students with disabilities. These surveys give feedback needed for the state department to utilize.

Last, Mrs. Williams asked for suggestions for professional development opportunities for next year. Suggestions were sensitivity training for all, writing effective IEPs, writing, and implementing Behavior Management Plans, and ongoing restorative practice.

To end the meeting, Mrs. Williams gave certificates of appreciation to all committee members and refreshments were served.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45pm.