

Special Education Advisory Council Meeting- January 26, 2023

(SEAC) Minutes

Meeting Opening

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Adam Smith, Associate Superintendent. Rodney Coates, ESS Director presented the agenda and gave updates on behalf of SEAC Chairperson, Dr. Janet Harris in her absence. He shared the meetings dates of April 27 and October 26, 2023.

Members present:

Angela Harmon, April Hampton, Anitra Walker, Cynthia Chesterfield, and Ashley Argrave.

Members absent: Tia Edwards, Adrian Deschamps, Ashlyn Harrison.

Minutes:

Agenda (see attached)

Rodney Coates, ESS Director read through the agenda and introduced out first Presenters- Robert Garcia, Kimberly Turner, and Chundra Steele-Woods. They shared information on Transition Planning and the upcoming Diversity Job Fair. Transition planning requires that all students 16 years of age and older with an IEP have individualized transition plan. However, in Louisiana we begin transition planning at age 15.

They also shared on Employment and the JESSI (Jobs for ESS Student Initiatives) Program. The JESSI Program provides students with disabilities an opportunity to obtain gainful employment by increasing employment readiness through the use of work skills and employability acquired in the classroom. Employs students for part-time positions at \$9.70 per hour in schools and departments for up to 240 hrs. during the school year and summer. JESSI is a collaborative effort among EBR schools, Louisiana Rehabilitation Services, and Opportunity Now.

Our second Presenter Julie Riley, LASARD Project Director. The Louisiana Autism Spectrum and Related Disabilities (LASARD) was created to assess our district's strengths and areas of growth and improvement related to serving students with autism and related disabilities and provide resources, training and support to staff and families with the goal of increasing the use of evidence-based practices across all settings that include students with autism and related disabilities. LASARD Parent Training Series will be offering a full presentation on Autism + Puberty.

Our third Presenter was Cynthia Sampey, Director of Accountability. She gave an overview of the upcoming test dates. She shared some changes such as, Human Reader, is only being used with LEAP Connect students and ELPT Connect does not replace LEAP Connect. The website for the for the 2023 Assessment Calendar is <https://ebrschools.org/divisions/accountability/>.

All PowerPoint presentations are attached for viewing.

All meetings were advertised to the public via, the East Baton Rouge Parish School System's website, School Apps, and flyers.

Mr. Coates and Mr. Smith provided closing remarks. Mr. Smith shared information on the ESS Department and findings from Council of Great City Schools audit. A full presentation will be given at the school board meeting.

This meeting was ABA Compliance.

There being no further discussion, the Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 7:25 P.M.

Danice B. Thomas, Secretary to the Council