

## Special Education Advisory Council Meeting- October 26, 2023

Progress Elementary School

855 Progress Road

### **(SEAC) Minutes**

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by SEAC Chairperson, Dr. Janet Harris. She introduced the SEAC members. Greetings given by Mr. Adam Smith and the presenters were introduced and the agenda was shared and followed.

#### **Members present:**

Angela Harmon, April Hampton, Anitra Walker, and Adrian Deschamp

#### **Minutes:**

Agenda (see attached)

Dr. Harris introduced our first Presenter, Ms. Mary Wells, Accountability Department. She presented copies of the 2023-24 Louisiana Assessment Calendar and gave an in-depth example of how their office supports students with disabilities which included: Human Reader, ELPT Connect, and new standards in Social Studies.

Our second Presenter was Michelle Kilcrease, Teacher at Southdowns. She shared on Cortical Visual Impairment. CVI is a disorder caused by damage to the parts of the brain that process vision. It's most common in babies and young children, but can continue into adulthood. She shared examples of recreated materials that is used to support her students while reading books, and choosing food items. The classroom walls are black so that items can be better focused on by the students.

Our third Presenter was Tracy Smith, ESS Supervisor. She shared a PowerPoint on how to become a Surrogate Parent. An educational surrogate parent is an individual who represents the student determined eligible for special education services under IDEA, or suspected-to-be eligible, in matters relating to the identification, evaluation, educational placement, and the provision of a free appropriate public education (FAPE). The PowerPoint explained how to apply, and the appointment process of becoming a Surrogate Parent. You are asked to contact her if interested.

Our last presentation was from two members of the Assistive Technology Team- Margaret Hilzim, Speech Therapist and Edna Stepteau, ESS Instructional Support Specialist. Their overall goal and focus of the Assistive Technology Team (AT)- is to enhance mobility, communication, learning, productivity and independence for students with a disability. Assistive Technology devices and services help individuals with special needs: to see, hear, communicate, play, remember, read, write and use a computer. Their basic premise is that all students can participate, learn and achieve, including students with disabilities!

All materials are attached for viewing.



Surrogate Parent  
SEAC Presentation 1



2023-24 LOUISIANA  
ASSESSMENT CALEN

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1BtWgNSR-Dqzu9Xn4vm6lDYZ7dbIA-3IGDI9sq7wq6m0/edit?usp=sharing>

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

Dr. Harris provided closing remarks and gave the Timeline for the 2024-2026 Application process. She encouraged all to apply and become a part of the SEAC.

2024-26 Applications will post to the EBR Website on November 9, 2023.

There being no further discussion, the Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 7:48 P.M.

Danice B. Thomas, Secretary to the Council