

**SNAC Meeting Minutes**  
**September 4, 2018**  
**Chapel Hill Public Library**

**8:30 AM Assemble-Open Meeting and Introductions**

*Heather Moore & Marisa Kathard*

Heather and Marisa introduce themselves and bring meeting to order. They announced that this will be our first meeting broadcast via Facebook Live.

Heather introduced the agenda

**Updates:**

Several meetings with EC and SOC team, including Dr. Baldwin and Dr. Banks (Sen Exec Dir of student services and leadership)

Discussed survey results including large amount of turnover and concern

SNAC Action items:

Student success

- Teacher recruitment and retention

- Teacher appreciation year-round

Family and Community Engagement

- Increase diversity (Marisa met with NAACP leader, Greg McElveen)

- Engage through workgroups

SNAC in the Summer

- EC and SOC Welcome back

- 405 Staff

- Second year Supporting Event

SNAC - Get involved

- Reps needed at Glenwood and Estes Hills

- Opening for 1 more rep at Carrboro, Ephesus, FPG, Culbreth, McDougale, Philips

Open SNAC Leadership Positions

- Communications

- Additional vice chair

SNAC Work Groups

- 3 work groups this year:

- EC HS Vocational Ed

- General Curriculum - Mary Berridge is Chair

- Adapted Curriculum

**8:40 AM Peer Buddy Program Update**

*Matt Straub, Middle School Facilitator*

Started in district 7 years ago as TA in inclusion classroom. Moved over to Culbreth as Counselor. Started Peer Buddy 5 or 6 years ago

What's the same:

Facilitators same at East and Carrboro, new at CHHS (?)

Same facilitators at middle school, waiting to hear back from Phillips MS.

Same goals and expectations and hoping to grow numbers

Middle School:

1:1 support with Mentors and Mentees

Turned into peer buddy clubs and groups with 1:1 matches

Changes:

New schedules at middle school meaning length of time of classes is different, including lunches and WIN (What I Need) time.

Permission forms have been merged to help streamline and make it smoother for mentors

Peer Buddy name may be changed to KIND group

Looking for facilitator at Philips - will be touching base with counselors in a couple of weeks

This year might take a little longer to get programs started because of schedule changes and ironing out the changes.

Peer Buddy Overview:

Purpose of the program is to match kids up to mentors to provide social opportunities for students who wouldn't otherwise have them. Started in inclusion classrooms. Students hanging with their peers doing normal "social things" that they don't otherwise. Goal is to get as many kids involved as possible. Lots of great kids in the district who are eager to participate. Easy to pick out students who will benefit and need support. Easy to find peers. Send info up from middle school to high school during that transition for continuity and to get the program rolling quickly.

Q: Is peer Buddy is available at Elementary.

A: No. Heather mentioned that it is not and some Elementary schools like Ephesus and MGE have buddy benches. Matt mentioned that Elementary programming is run differently.

Marisa mentioned to add the info and video about Peer Buddy program on the different school websites, along with the names of the facilitator at that school. This will spread awareness of the program.

Q: do middle schoolers volunteer to be a mentor and can they hang out anytime or just during scheduled time.

A: Matt said that it is structured in a set time, but blossoms throughout the year. Anyone is welcome to volunteer.

Q: do they focus on EC students?

A: yes. Matt mentioned that he might start trying to include ESL students.

**8:50 AM Community Resource: New Voices Foundation**

*Sandy McMillan, Executive Director*

Marisa introduced Sandy and her long list of credentials and that she is an EC parent.

Who are NV children: children with significant disabilities, physical and verbal. Meet the needs of these and it will trickle down. Often have complex medical needs, use computers and communication devices.

Founders: Don Stedman, Pat Porter, Missy Lohr

Believe in inclusion

Beginning Goals:

TNS Planning Council

The Assessment Program

The Day school

The Institute

What happened in 2007 - waiting for things to get better, for money to appear, not a good time for a brick and mortar project. So re-worked approach.

Used the same mission - improve education and inclusion, helping all children achieve their highest potential

How will we succeed?: Fill these gaps:

Best trained teachers and therapists

Access to equipment/technology

Change of hearts and mind

Raising awareness:

Lara Jane Parker award - recognize excellence

Story Called - "Out of My Mind" by Sharon Draper

Changing hearts and mind through media facilitated screenings of award winning documentary, "Certain Proof"

Educate and Inform through social media and blog, including a recent post about school safety plans

What New Voices does:

Scholarships for training including sponsorship of 35th Annual NC Augmentative Communication Association and PODD training for SLPs. Over 55 people have been trained in PODD. Provided thousands and thousands of hours of training.

Provide Equipment: including to Orange County Public Schools. Currently have funds to provide equipment for an individual child. Even have provided a school rolls of laminate to make communication systems.

Sponsor events: Marbles Kids Museum - "All Kids Play" day, and Santa's Little Hackers comes to Raleigh (assemble toys with switch access).

New Voices Impact:

5 county Region - Orange, Durham, Wake, Chatham, Alamance/Burlington

\$350,000 awarded in grants and programs to date

Scholarships, Sponsorships, Equipment, Events

What's Next: LJ Parker awards program

Distributing \$6k to provide communication equipment

New website

New scholarships program in Wake County

SECC kick off for 2019

What can you do:

Sign up for newsletter, like FB page, check out blog, "New Voices Speaks!"

Help us spread the word of the good work we are doing, let us know what we can do for you

Sandy said that her hardest thing to overcome is people who think the group is already trained and experts.

Q: where do donations come from?

A: mostly private donors and some from Kids and Community Foundation, Bojangles, and a few other companies.

## **9:10 AM Exceptional Children & System of Care Update & Overview**

*Lessley Saenz-Mader, Executive Director, EC and System of Care*

Heather introduced our new director, been on the job for 4 months

Great summer had time to come see some classrooms. Favorite time was Aug 28 when got to see the kids! New things happening PODD training, working on classroom structure, and getting to know kids.

Nice to work with Heather to Marisa to meet and get acquainted with goals

Aug 24th EC welcome back was awesome, thank you!

EC Connections to CHCCS Strategic Plan

Student Success:

Goal 4 develop continuum services to promote the social, emotional, and academic development of all students

Goal 5: create a culture and system of support to empower, inspire, and engage students that embraces values of diversity.

Agenda:

Welcome to the school year

Collaboration - all working parts of school system, working together

Communication - distribution list being reworked and aligned, after software update this summer.

Capacity building - including myself and learning CHCCS, still learning; also stakeholders - staff, parents, community members. Improving comfort level with wheelchairs and communication devices.

Lincoln Center Organizational Structure update:

Dr. Charlos Banks, senior executive director of student services and leadership

Provided flow chart of structure and had those present introduce themselves

Website Update: "Webmaster"

Elenita Blanton is taking charge of EC section to keep updated

Exceptional Children/Special Education Overview:

Words mean the same

Have you ever heard of IDEA?

Why: Children with disabilities

What: IDEA zero reject policy

How: Child Find, Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), Transition services, LRE

Exceptional Children = Special Education

Process and procedures - NCDPI policies governing students with disabilities - amended March 2018

Defines Initial referral process, determining eligibility (including initial or re-eval process), and Individualized Education Program (including LRE and transition planning)

LRE - Cross-Collaboration/Inclusive Practices

Tier 3 - Individual Support

Tier 2 - Systems development, problem-solving

Tier 1 - Program development & Evaluation, schoolwide and classroom systems, correcting problem behaviors, developing self-discipline

Including mental Health supports for wellness, problems/concerns, and illness

Overview of CHCCS EC

Head count as of 9/3/18 - 1,319 students

Pre-K 10

Elementary 579 (including 10 from pre-k)

Middle 337

HS 393

School staffing -

Total EC Teachers - 99 (plus 12 pre K)

Total EC Assistants - 98.5 (plus 16 pre k)

Openings in Staff

OT - 1

Hearing Impaired Teacher - 1

AU/Behavior Support - 1

ECTA - 1

Philips GC and AC positions (2)

Ms. Mader provided break down of student numbers by disability

In 2020 Tier model will change from 15 point IQ discrepancy to how students respond to intervention

Requested Focus Areas:

Secondary Curriculum Coordinator - Ellenita Blanton

Credit Recovery - Summer School (4 weeks of intense students)

Collaboration with General Education Teacher

Understanding the EC Teacher role within the “Strategic Plan” what it looks like in the classroom.

Support for SUMmer school at McDougle, parent’s concerns, and Instructive Division, Culbreth Middle School - SAIL Service Delivery (addresses middle school needs for severe behaviors)

Elementary Curriculum Coordinator - Tim Gibson

Started in CHCCS on July 2nd, from Durham where he was a principal

Supported work associated with Enrichment Camp at McDougle

Assists PLCs, administrators, and individual teachers, creating/reviewing schedules

Data analysis and problem-solving conversations

Collaborative planning sessions with Instructional Services Division

mCLASS

Read to Achieve

District initiatives, expectations, support documents, etc.

Connecting EC Teachers to general curriculum requirements, resources, and supports

FUNDations training to support K-2 phonics instruction

Reading Research to classroom practice to support literacy instruction

Coordinate work associated with NC State Improvement Project (NCSIP) Grant

Focus on Building District capacity to support instruction for students with disabilities

Funds Reading Research to Classroom Practices and Math Foundations

Assist parents with questions, resources, and concerns

On August 24th reintroduced Co-Teaching and 7 methods.

Q: do EC and Regular Education teachers have collaboration time?

A: individual schools are responsible. Tim and Ellenita are trying to work with the different schools promote the importance and make that scheduling work.

Q: how are you incorporating support for students also receiving gifted services?

A: Having conversations and including AIG staff in meetings and building collaborative team.

Adapted Curriculum Specialist - Alice Riverbank

Provide direct professional development, assisting classroom to support teachers

109 AC students in 17 classrooms - ASD, ID, MU, TBI, OHI, and/or DD

AC Classrooms are cross-categorical

Students in AC classes are on an alternate curriculum and receive instruction on the NC Extended content standards - changes are more rigorous

Daily instruction includes focus on both academics and activities of daily living

AC students are on a certificate track versus a diploma track

What does Alice do?:

- Coaching and support for teachers

- Support creation and implementation of IEPs

- Support structured learning environments

- Guide teams through curriculum consideration

- Coordinate PD opportunities for teachers and staff throughout the year

- Train AC teacher and staff in CPI

- Help support student transitions Pre-k to Elem, Elem to Middle, Middle to HS

Where are the classrooms:

Elementary School

- 3 Rashkis

- 2 MGE

- 2 Northside

Middle School

- 2 McDougale

- 1 Philips

- 1 Smith

High School

- 1 Carrboro

- 3 Chapel Hill High

- 2 East

17 AC teachers - 1 vacancy at Philips

35 TAs, 1 vacancy

3 Career coaches

Support for AC teachers and staff

- PODD training provided Debbie Reinhart on Aug 16 and 17

- AAC Part 2 training provided by Kara VanHooser

- AC Back to school training provided to teachers on Aug 22

- All AC teachers and TAs participate in the EC professional development day on Aug 24. AC teachers attended sessions on monitoring progress, compliance, and transition service.

Student Support for AC students

Music and art therapy

Participate in community bowling, swimming, and community based instruction

High school students participate in school based and community based vocational training

39 high school students participating in TRAC milestones as part of their transition services  
(additional students on OCS in this program)

Summer Enrichment camp for 80 students went well

#### Additional info

Ongoing CPI training throughout the year

Monthly AC teacher PLC Meeting

Upcoming training on ASD and ABA - goal audience for everyone, not just AC teachers

Secondary Transition Coordinator - Jennifer Michalenok

Ran out of time, but she is very excited and passionate about this work. She will start at the next meeting and feel free to contact her before then if you have any questions or concerns.

#### **9:50 AM SNAC Representative Training**

*Heather Moore & Marisa Kathard*

We ran out of time, so Heather announced that if you are school rep and need an overview or open house info, to come see her.

Heather announced the next meeting on October 9 from 6-7:30 PM in the Media Center at Northside Elementary