

# Calvert Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes: November 19, 2019

### Attendees

Kathleen Porecki, Sue Rafalowksi, Kara Muffley, Joe Cormier, Brooke Anthony, Shelley Baden, Shelley Miller, Nicole Maldonado, Camille Miller, Christy Harris

### Welcome and Introductions

Joe, SECAC Chairperson, welcomed attendees and started with introductions. Joe announced Alicia Chubbs's resignation of her position as SECAC Vice Chairperson. Nominations for the position can be sent by email and an election will take place at the next meeting.

### Approval of September minutes

The October meeting minutes were approved as written.

### Safety and Security Discussion

Larry Titus, CCPS Community Resource & School Safety Specialist, explained that he was asked to come talk with SECAC about safety and security in Calvert County Public Schools because Christy shared with him that parents have called with questions or concerns regarding school safety. Mr. Titus shared that each year schools are required to have a variety of emergency drills where students are given the opportunity to practice shelter in place and evacuations. It was suggested that teachers have a bank of social stories for bus evacuations, fire drills and other emergency drills.

Mr. Titus shared that CCPS has more than doubled the number of police officers present in our schools to ensure adequate coverage. Additional safety precautions include vestibules added to fronts of buildings, updating of portable radio systems and surveillance cameras added to the interior and exterior of the schools. All school buses have cameras with visual and audio.

Mr. Titus informed attendees that equipment was purchased to assist with the evacuation of students with mobility issues. Physical therapists recommended a med-sled be purchased to move students from an upper floor to a lower floor to be exited from the building. AEDs are in all schools even though it is only required for secondary schools. Nursing staff, physical education staff and anyone working directly with students with respiratory problems have been trained on AED use.

A parent asked if CCPS has staff trained to deal with trauma. Christy explained that CCPS staff have been receiving trauma informed care and restorative practice training in recent years. There is a threat assessment process in place at schools which is required. Christy also provided copies of the article, *Supporting Students With Disabilities During School Crisis-A Teacher's Guide*, from TEACHING Exceptional Children. Joe reminded people to say something if they see something in or around the school. If there are adults in the building without badges or visitor stickers from Keep n' Track, it is better to be safe than sorry and report it to the office.

## **MSDE Maryland Learning Links Updated**

Christy Harris shared that the Maryland Learning Links site has been recently revamped. This site, [marylandlearninglinks.org](http://marylandlearninglinks.org), explains the MSDE's Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services imperatives and has specific resources and support for parents and professionals. A handout from MSDE was also provided.

## **SECAC Annual Awards**

Joe shared that we will hold the annual Staff Appreciation Awards on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Calvert High School has been booked by the Special Education Department.

Joe has been talking to Sue from Parent Connections about combining the resource fair with the SECAC Awards so parents and attendees will have the opportunity to visit resource tables before and after the awards program. Resource tables would be set up in the hallway on the way to the atrium.

## **Subcommittee Meetings**

Subcommittee meetings were discussed. Brooke Anthony volunteered to join the Bylaws and Awards Subcommittee with Joe Cormier, Kathleen Porecki and Jen Kuhle Parker. Kara Muffley will email them all a copy of the current bylaws and get them connected. It was explained that there is no official length of "term" for participation on a subcommittee like there is a 2-year term for positions on the SECAC board.

## **SECAC Treasury Report**

The budget from 2020 was provided to show a budget balance of \$1,432.50 after October expenditures for the Frank Kros presentation and October childcare.

Joe shared that he attended the F2F staff development provided by the special education department. He thought this would be great information for parents to have as well. Doing some mini sessions during our regular meetings was suggested and will be organized and offered.

## **Comments/Feedback**

Joe shared that even though it is almost a year out, the deadline for applying for consideration for CCPS Board Member is January 24<sup>th</sup> and that Board of Education seats for all 3 districts are open.

A parent asked about the report cards issued to students in non-diploma bound programs, explaining that she was unsure about this first report card and believes other parents may have questions. Christy explained that school systems are required by the federal and state government to show students are enrolled in core content courses. Non-diploma bound students are now enrolled in academic classes and will receive a report card in addition to the quarterly progress report card on their IEP goals.

**Upcoming Events/Meetings:**

January 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>- 2 part IEP clinic

January 11<sup>th</sup> and Feb 1<sup>st</sup>- Pre-guiding the Journey; Transition for 13 and 14 year olds

February 4<sup>th</sup> MD ABLE Account Presentation; 6:30-8:30PM Jesus the Divine Word Church

February 13<sup>th</sup> -ADHD In-school and Beyond Presentation; 6-8PM Calvert Country School

Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> 6:30pm-8pm-next Calvert SECAC meeting with parent workshop opportunities

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.