

# Calvert Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes: September 18, 2018

### Attendees

Shelley Miller, Paul Reilly, Jada Scott, Melanie Wigton, Sue Rafalowksi, Larry Titus, Janet Stephanson, Joy Eason, Jennifer Bobbitt, Kathleen Porecki, Joseph Cormier, Christy Harris, Camille Miller, Kara Muffley

### Welcome and Introductions

Joe Cormier welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

### Review and Approve May 2018 Emergency Meeting Minutes-

A motion was made to approve the minutes and the May emergency meeting minutes were approved.

### Purpose of SECAC

Joe explained that each school system in Maryland is tasked by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to have a parent/community led group to support the Special Education Departments in each county. He further explained that as the Calvert SECAC our group comes together to raise awareness and put information in the hands of families of students with special needs in Calvert County.

Joe shared that at our October meeting we will be hosting CCPS board members prior to elections. Christy Harris will also provide a special education update and share the results of the annual MSDE parent survey. At the November SECAC meeting the Special Education Department would like the SECAC and meeting attendees to provide feedback on areas of concern identified in the parent survey and assist with how improvements can be made in those areas.

### Safety Presentation

Larry Titus, CCPS Community Resource & School Safety Specialist, presented many facts about safety and security in our schools beginning with a brief explanation about his position. He oversees the safety and security of the schools in CCPS, ensures that CCPS schools meet state and federal requirements and that every school has an annual emergency plan.

In response to recent school violence around the country, CCPS has continued safety practices that were in effect along with adding new safety and security measures to keep students and staff safe. Some of the security measures he mentioned included:

- school doors being locked and only opened by someone inside with view of the person on the outside
- vestibules to prevent direct access to classrooms being built at many schools that previously had an open floor plan
- surveillance cameras inside and outside of the middle and high schools
- plans in place to have outside surveillance at all elementary schools by the end of the school year
- floor plans being shared with local fire and police departments so they have them in the event of emergencies

- required safety drills, such as shelter in place drills, in all schools
- 10 annual fire drills
- school bus evacuations
- active shooter drills for school staff
- 8 school resource officers- one at each high school, one shared between 2 middle schools with availability to the feeder elementary schools
- School safety coordinator and Mental health service coordinator have been identified in CCPS following a recent Senate bill
- Students, family members, school staff and other school community members can anonymously report concerns to a statewide tip line: 1-833-MD-B-SAFE (1-833-632-7233)
- Evacuation chairs have been provided to all multi-level schools and this year med sleds will be provided to schools after the staff have been properly trained with hands on training

Christy provided a guide for “Supporting Students with Disabilities During School Crisis.” This was provided to all special education teachers in the spring but on September 18, 2018 Christy emailed this guide to the CCPS all staff email distribution list. Christy explained that individual student’s 504 plans and IEPs can also have a specific evacuation plan. Janet Stephanson explained that teachers of regional programs have “go bags” or “go boxes” with specific activities to keep students occupied. A parent asked what teachers can do in a drill where students are required to be quiet, but a student with a disability doesn’t understand or is unable to remain quiet. Larry Titus said he suggested to teachers they try giving the child/children a lollipop or something like that to quiet them.

### **SECAC Special Election**

No nominations were received by email for the vacant Member At Large position. Joy Eason nominated herself. Members who had attended at least 2 SECAC meetings in the last year were identified and Joy was unanimously elected Member At Large.

### **Treasury/Budget Report**

Joe explained that annually the SECAC is provided a budget of \$2500 but there are many restrictions. Remaining FY 2018 funds that had to be spent by September 30, 2018 were used to contract William Stillman for a presentation on September 17, 2018. The conference was free to parents and CCPS staff and was widely advertised drawing attendees from Virginia and other MD counties. With 100 registrations, an optional lunch provided by Dream Weavers and overwhelmingly positive feedback, Joe and most of the other attendees at the SECAC meeting who attended felt it was a very successful event. A couple attendees expressed concern with the lack of clarity or detail on the flyer and after visiting Mr. Stillman’s website, were still unsure about the content of the presentation. One parent expressed concern that as stewards of the SECAC funds, communication about presentations should be very clear for attendees.

FY 2019 funds still available can be used to host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual SECAC Staff Appreciation Ceremony, provide scholarships to parents or professionals to attend conferences such as the National Autism Conference or to host another speaker.

### **Upcoming Meetings and Events**

“How Will I Know if My Child is Making Progress”-Missy Alexander, PPMD, BOE Thurs, Oct 11, 6-8:30 PM

Parent support group meeting-Oct 24<sup>th</sup>, now will be held in ITP/Child Find department at Calvert Country School

Partners for Success Reading Festival- Oct 25, PF library 7-8:30

Secondary Transition Workshop/Applying to and Meeting Agencies, Thurs, BOE Nov 8, 6:00-7:30 PM

“Rethinking ADHD: What Works, What Doesn’t and Why”, presented by the TranZED Institute, Calvert Marine Museum, Fri, Nov 30, 9-12

Next SECAC meeting Tuesday, October 16

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.