

Calvert Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes: January 15, 2019

Attendees

Alicia Chubb, Joseph Cormier, Sue Rafalowksi, Caitlin Hosmer, Kara Muffley, Joy Eason, Christy Harris, Marcy Gruver, Melissa Richardson, Kathleen Porecki, Paul Reilly, Jada Scott, Shelley Miller, Nicole Maldonado

Approve November 2019 Meeting minutes

The November 2018 minutes were approved.

Results of Family/School/IEP Team Partnership Solution Finding in Response to MSDE's Annual Parent Survey

At the November SECAC meeting attendees rotated the room to provide feedback on the following areas:

- Communication (What forms of communication work best? How often/timeliness? Purpose/info/topics? Who from?)
- Family/School Partnerships (Understanding IEP & Progress. Valuing Input. School Climate. IEP team participation)
- Training & Support (For Families. Administrators. Teachers. Other Service providers/staff)

Christy Harris informed attendees that in effort to further improve collaborative relationships surrounding special education and the IEP process at the school level, the responses were shared with all who attended today's IEP Chairperson teleconference (IEP chairs and lead teachers). Meeting attendees had the opportunity to read the compiled responses and add any additional comments on available notecards.

Joy commented that "good and continual communication" was noted in the climate section, adding that communication seems to be a common thread. She asked specifically "Who trains the facilitators and chairpersons?" Christy responded that she, the supervisors, and teacher specialists train the IEP Chairpersons. Alicia suggested parents share with another member of the team who they trust have a trusting relationship with if they feel uncomfortable with anything involving an IEP meeting.

Information shared with IEP Chairpersons and Lead Special Education Teachers comes from a wide variety of resources including the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), book studies, legal agencies and professional conferences. The Special Education Department can provide the same training to the IEP Chairpersons but every chairperson brings to the IEP team their own personality and everyone who attends professional development has their own perspective and take away so amongst the schools every IEP chairperson or IEP team is not the same.

As SECAC Chairperson Joe was invited and attended the Face-to-face (f2f) professional development for general and special education teachers provided by the special education department. He commented that he attended a few breakout sessions and saw a variety of very specific strategies geared toward teachers. Melissa Richardson, special education teacher, said she feels well supported by the Special Education Department and feels the f2f sessions and modules are very beneficial. The special education department

has teacher specialists available in many specialized areas and teachers are able to reach out to them as needed for coaching, guidance and support.

Communication is the root of all relationships so the IEP team needs to be open and collaborative. As a parent it's appropriate to share with teachers and providers what kind of communication you would like. Shelly shared that she believes many parents do not feel empowered and therefore do not always feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and opinions with the IEP team. Based on the solution finding feedback, it was evident that what works for some parents and/or teachers doesn't work for everyone. Communication is personal and individual.

Joe mentioned the many videos one watches to become a substitute teacher and asked if there is a way that general educators could watch a video training about being an IEP team member. Christy responded that the special education department has offered and continues to offer courses and online modules for general education teachers on various topics related to special education. Special education teams are required to participate in online modules focusing on many facets of special education.

Executive Resolurtion for Board of Education Vacancy

Joe Cormier shared that when Kelly McConkey was elected a County Commissioner and his seat on the Board of Education became vacant he inquired about the process to fill his seat on the BOE. Joe learned that the Board of County Commissioners would appoint someone to the BOE. He shared that he and 10 or 11 others interviewed earlier that day to fill the seat. COMAR does not provide any timeline for filling this vacancy. Community members have until January 28th to contact County Commissioners to support having someone with an interest in special education on the BOE.

SECAC Awards Nomination Form and Update on April 4, 2019 SECAC Award Ceremony

Joe Cormier shared the updated form for the SECAC Staff Appreciation Awards. Forms will be distributed to schools and electronically via the CCPS website and other social media. Nomination forms must be received by February 28th so they can be "scrubbed" of identifying information for the selection committee. The rubric used in the past will be used again and winners will be selected in each of the 4 categories.

Conference Partnership

Joe Cormier shared that we get a \$2500 budget annually. Currently most of the 2019 budget is still available. Sue Rafalowski shared that she would like to provide a book on executive functioning, *Smart but Scattered* or *Smart but Scattered Teens* (\$976 would provide 80 books from Amazon) at the Feb 19th workshop, Understanding and Teaching Executive Function Skills in and Out of the Classroom. The speaker for the workshop recommended this book. A couple attendees supported providing half of the books.

There has also been discussion about partnering with St. Mary's County on another TranZed workshop.

Budget Updates

Treasury Report: No SECAC funds have been spent since the last meeting. A budget spreadsheet was provide to attendees. The budget balance for 2019 is \$2,3191.67.

Upcoming Meetings and Events Announced

January 17th - Sensory Strategies for Children with Sensory Processing Disorder; CCPS BOE, 6:30-8:30PM

February 19th -Understanding and Teaching Executive Function Skills in and Out of the Classroom; The Hall at Huntingtown-(Huntingtown Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad), 9: 00am to 4:00pm

February 8th- Tim Tebow Night to Shine at Emmanuel Church

February 21st - Secondary Transition Parent Workshop: DORS' Summer Youth Employment and meeting/linkage to agencies; 6-7:30PM, CCPS BOE (snow date, Thursday, February 28, 2019)

February 22nd - Secondary Transition STUDENT Workshop-Try College for a Day (during school day) at CSM, Pr. Fred. Campus; Call Paul Reilly or your student's high school for more information

Feedback & Comments

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

The next SECAC meeting will be held Tuesday, March 19th from 6:30-8:00PM.