

Calvert Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes: March 16, 2021

Attendees

Joe Cormier, Christy Harris, Kara Muffley, LaShonda Scott, Sue Rafalowksi, Nicole Maldonado, Antoine White

Welcome and Introductions

Joe Cormier, SECAC Chairperson, welcomed attendees and everyone introduced themselves.

Approval of January minutes

The January meeting minutes were approved as written.

Special Education Staffing Plan

The current Special Education Staffing Plan was provided to the email distribution list prior to the meeting. Christy Harris reviewed the current staffing plan and explained the hybrid census model for staffing. Consideration is given to total student enrollment, the total number of IEPs, individualized student needs, as well as the many responsibilities of special education providers. The Special Education Department is proposing to keep the staffing the same with very little change even though total school enrollment is lower than typical years. Christy anticipates that some students may return from parental instruction or parental placement in private schools. In response to a question, she explained that psychologists and social workers are in the Student Services department and fall under that budget so they are not included in special ed. staffing plan with the exception of one social worker at CCS who is strictly servicing students receiving special education services. SECAC members are asked to provide any input on the staffing plan which will be considered as Christy develops the proposed staffing plan for the 2021-22 school year. The Special Education Staffing Plan for 2021-22 will be presented to the BOE, then posted for public comment and then requested for approval from the BOE. One attendee asked how the 1:175 ratio was determined. Christy explained that it has been in place for several years now, and was determined by researching other local school system's special education staffing plans and looking at best practices. It was also explained that because IEP services needs are also considered there are schools that have increased teacher staffing above the 1:175 as this is a starting point. The staffing plan is posted on the CCPS website and can be referenced for additional information.

Recovery Efforts/Summer School Opportunities

Christy Harris, Director of Special Education, discussed recovery efforts/services and summer school opportunities. Recovery services will be made available to students, general education students and students with IEPs, in response to the impact that COVID-19 has had on schools and student learning. Recovery services may be considered for any student. Recovery services can be provided as summer school opportunities as this is expected to be available at elementary, middle, and high school levels. Last year was the first year summer school was available for all elementary schools. CCPS is still working on hours and dates for summer school. Small group and individual tutoring will also be recovery service options. It was explained that recovery efforts are good faith efforts to fill in gaps created by the Covid-19 pandemic. An

IEP meeting is not necessary to determine what recovery services will be offered. For students with IEPs, case managers should contact parents of students who are being recommended for recovery services. An IEP team could meet to discuss recovery and/or compensatory services.

It was shared that CCPS may not have enough teachers available in the summer to provide teach summer school and provide recovery efforts. Some suggestions of meeting attendees were to use substitute teachers or possibly have secondary students who need service or volunteer hours to assist younger students.

State Assessment Update

Christy Harris shared that the state BOE decided to postpone state assessments for ELA and math for students grades 3-8 until fall. The Alternative Assessments are also not being administered this year and an assessment window will be opened in the fall. Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry and ELA 10 at the high school level will be administered this spring and will also be administered in the fall.

Thoughts and Feedback on Hybrid Model and Considerations for In-Person Supports on Friday

Christy asked for feedback on the Hybrid Model and Considerations for In-Person Supports on Friday. It was shared that plans are being developed to bring in struggling learners of Fridays. One parent said that she felt having additional support or some sort of advisory period would be very helpful and that this may even be able to be provided virtually. Joe said that he was concerned about another change after so many schedule changes have already taken place. He said that as far as he is aware teachers are busy with meetings, planning and other responsibilities and deep cleanings are being done.

SECAC Special Education Staff Appreciation Awards

The SECAC Staff Appreciation Awards Ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15, 2021 and will be held virtually again this year. The nominations are all in. There are 31 nominations and a total of 69 staff members nominated. Joe is redacting names and identifying information for scoring. Anyone who wishes to help score nominations email Joe at joseph.somd.leaders@gmail.com.

Treasury Report/ Budget Update

None of our \$2500 budget has been spent recently. We have brought in speakers and partnered with Parent Connections in the past. Joe explained that we can pay for conference fees for members if anyone has found a conference they are interested in.

Christy explained that Special Education Kirwan funds ARE going to be available for the 2021-2022 school year. At the last meeting she shared that she did not think we would get the nearly one million dollars in Kirwan funds and that any staff funded with Kirwan funds would need to be reallocated. This is fortunate since the majority of these funds are allocated for staffing.

Community Comments/Calendar Events:

The next SECAC meeting will be April 20, 2021

- Parent Connections- 3rd week of Supporting Positive Behavior series will be held on Thursday and again on Friday. The same information will be provided Thursday evening and Friday morning. Futures sessions will include April 14 and 15th Natural Environment Teaching and May 20 and 21st Social Interaction: Siblings and Peers

James Ball- April 21 6-7:30 virtual fireside chat on transitioning, especially due to COVID-19

April 26th- 6:30 what is sensory processing? Participants will receive a sensory box

May 13th-Toilet Training workshop

Contact Sue at 443-550-8375 or parentconnections@calvertnet.k12.md.us for more information on any of these. Sue is also looking into doing a Summer Resource Fair and asked for families to let her know if they know of organizations doing summer activities for SWD.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM