

Calvert County Public Schools Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes: November 9, 2021, 6:30 PM-8:00 PM

Meeting began at 6:30 PM.

Attendees: Samantha Mathieson, Matthew Layton, Mechelle Shiflett, Ashton Nelson, Joseph Cormier, Tina Hall, Paul Reilly, Antoine White, LaShonda Scott, Sue Rafalowski, Christy Harris, Christine Garrett, and Margo Gross

Welcome and Introductions

Welcome, Introductions, and Purpose of SECAC

- A Bulletin from MSDE will be attached to the meeting minutes and posted or linked on the SECAC site. This bulletin describes what SECAC is and its purposes. SECAC will establish meeting norms and a parking lot for ideas.

Bylaws Vote

- SECAC bylaws have been posted with no public comment. The SECAC committee voted to adopt the bylaws. There was no opposition for this vote.

*Mr. Reilly noted that Secondary Transition Resources for Southern Maryland has resources available to parents. This information has been shared as an attachment.

*Ms. Hall noted that she continues to have questions regarding secondary transitions and life skills. Mr. Comier will schedule a follow up with Ms. Stephanson to address Ms. Hall's questions about life skills.

Elections for 2021-2022

The following SECAC Executive Team Members were nominated and elected by a vote.

- Tina Hall- SECAC Member at Large
- Mechelle Shiflett- SECAC Vice Chairperson
- Joseph Comier- SECAC Chairperson
- LaShonda Scott- SECAC Member at Large

*Dr. Harris, Director of Special Education, indicated that she is not a voting member of SECAC.

Director update/Resources for Families

Matthew Layton, Supervisor of Special Education, shared MSDE resources with parents.

The following resources were shared.

- Maryland Learning Links www.marylandlearninglinks.org
This site includes information for parents and service providers of students with disabilities. These resources are organized in three sections.
 - Early Childhood Resources
 - Access, Equity, and Progress Resources (Includes the IEP process and development)
 - Secondary Transition Resources

There is a specific portal for families that includes videos, a directory, handouts, and connections to partners.

*Ms. Hall asked about the timeliness and availability of resources for parents including how many people work at Parent Place of Maryland.

*Ms. Scott, who works with Parent Place, noted that it is a non-profit that provides resources to parents, but does not provide advocates.

- MSDE Technical Assistance Bulletins & Tips
<https://www.marylandpublicschools.org/programs/pages/Special-Education/TAB.aspx>

These Technical Assistance Bulletins feature information on a variety of topics. They are organized by number with the beginning of the number representing the date. SECAC will add links to these resources to the web site.

Calendar/Community Events

Ms. Rafalowski shared information from Partners For Success. It was noted that Partners for Success works with parents and students ages 3-21. The following workshops were shared.

- November 17th @6:30 PM- Anxiety Workshop
- December 8th @6:00-8:00- 1 in 52 Has Autism: Who Do You Know
Sponsored by the Pathfinders for Autism (workshop is appropriate for all, not just parents of students with Autism)
- January – 2 part/day IEP Clinic (More information to come)

Adjournment and Final Points

SECAC has available scholarships for SECAC members/parents who would like to attend workshops within the scope of the work of SECAC. If parents are interested contact Joseph Comier.

Next Meeting February 8th, 2022 at 6:30pm

The meeting was opened for additional questions or concerns. No questions or additional business was noted. The meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM.