

**Calvert County Public Schools  
Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Minutes: November 15, 2022**

**Attendees:**

Joe Cormier, Chair, Parent  
Ashton Nelson, Parent, Secretary  
Camille Khaleesi, Parent  
Nancy Gregory, Supervisor of Special Education CCPS  
Dr. Marcella Gruver, Supervisor of Elementary ELA  
Jane Cooper, Special Education Reading Specialist  
Joanne Koterwas, Parent  
Kathleen Porecki, Parent  
Lashonda Scott, Member at Large, Parent  
Samantha Matheson, Parent  
Vanessa Ridegway, Parent of Former CCPS Student  
Mary Morris, Grandparent  
Paul Reilly, Secondary Transition Specialist  
Shelley Baden, Parent  
Christina Hall, Member at large, Parent  
Dr. Kendy Anderson, Treasurer, Director of Special Education CCPS  
Sue Rafalowski, Partners for Success Coordinator

**Welcome and Introductions**

Meeting began at 6:38pm. Joe Cormier opened, welcomed all, and introductions were held. Meeting norms were established. Dr Anderson requested to yield her position on the agenda to be able to have presentations first. No objections noted.

**Discussion and Approval of October Meeting Minutes**

Minutes were presented and reviewed for approval. Discussion held if any corrections needed. None noted. Motion to approve by Ms. Koterwas and seconded by Ms. Hall. Approved as written and will be uploaded to the CCPS webmaster for the website.

**Presentation "The Challenge of Learning to Read"**

Presenters: Dr. Marcella Gruver, Supervisor of Elementary ELA and Jane Cooper, Special Education Reading Specialist. Due to the copyright of images and text, the presentation is not linked. However, here are a list of resource websites on the topic:

[Ready to Read Act - Calvert County Public School District \(calvertnet.k12.md.us\)](https://calvertnet.k12.md.us)  
[Reading 101: A Guide for Parents | Reading Rockets](#)  
<https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/southeast/foundations/index.asp>  
[Literacy for All: Equitable Practices for Reading and Dyslexia | Reading Rockets](#)  
[Decoding Dyslexia - International Dyslexia Association \(dyslexiaida.org\)](https://dyslexiaida.org)  
[Lexia Resources for At-Home Use \(lexialearningresources.com\)](https://lexialearningresources.com)  
<https://dyslexiaida.org/what-is-structured-literacy/>  
[www.reallygreatreading.com/content/scarboroughs-reading-rope](https://www.reallygreatreading.com/content/scarboroughs-reading-rope)

During task activity there were concerns raised about the presentation. Dr. Anderson discussed that the presentation should be continued, and questions held for the end to ensure full understanding of the presentation. It was clarified that this is to be considered the “base” of the reading presentations that will be held at each meeting. Specific case questions regarding access to interventions, clarifications, and concerns about staffing of reading specialists in ratio to the district need were presented to Dr. Gruver and were discussed also with Dr. Anderson. Joe Cormier reiterated the importance of bringing this information to local government leaders, legislators, MSDE, etc. to bring awareness to the often “overlooked” or “non-visible” disabilities to help bring in additional funding and resources.

### **Presentation: “Intro to the Intro to Special Education Secondary Transition**

Presented by: Paul Reilly, Secondary Transition Specialist

PowerPoint can be found [HERE](#). Additional flyers to be sent after the meeting. Question raised during presentation regarding students attending IEP meetings prior to age 14. Mr. Reilly confirmed that the MINIMUM age is 14, but students can be involved sooner if they can bring input to the meeting. Dr. Anderson confirmed that this can be a topic for the next IEP chairpersons meeting for clarification. Questions raised regarding the ISLE program and the involvement in general education. Mr. Reilly clarified that while ISLE classrooms are “self-contained” in a sense, students also participate in inclusive activities and learning in general education classrooms. Dr. Anderson indicated that there are a lot of changes surrounding Secondary Transition occurring at the state level and trickling down for more/different people to be at the table. Ex., CTA being more involved.

### **Treasury/Directors Report**

Remaining budget presented and was not changed since previous meeting. Joanne Koterwas requested a tuition grant for the Wrightslaw conference in the amount of \$165. Motioned by Ashton Nelson with a second by Christina Hall. Approved. Joe will work with Lisa Casciero for re-imburement procedures. Discussion surrounding remainder of expenditures resumed. Suggestion for more presentations, parent scholarships to attend conferences, were received. Dr. Anderson would possibly like a committee formed to work toward concrete use of limited funding.

### **SECAC Awards updates/discussion**

A Microsoft Forms survey has been created to collect interest/idea information for the SECAC Awards. During discussions of the award format, suggestions were made regarding the need to give grants to selected nominations and if additional nomination categories should be included. These will be added to the survey. Dr. Anderson suggested a committee be established at the current meeting. Motion by Ashton Nelson, seconded by Lashonda Scott. Approved. Current chair for Awards committee will be Joe Cormier but would yield if another member expressed interest during the survey. Surveys to be sent to distribution list following the meeting. Consensus reached to close survey the following Tuesday, November 22, 2022. Ashton Nelson will compile data from the survey to discuss with the executive board and present at next meeting.

### **Public Comment**

- Shelley Baden discussed that paper flyers are not effective as they are often late coming from schools if they are distributed at all. Social media, emails to PTA/PTO and pushing digital information should be prioritized.

- During suggestions for SECAC awards there were comments about perhaps adding a Parent category. SECAC awards are typically held in order to celebrate CCPS staff, but perhaps a parent “get together” of sorts could be done in similar fashion?
- Christina Hall commended Dr. Anderson on her involvement in SECAC and response to questions/concerns.
- Suggestions to add all upcoming community dates to a calendar or running list to be posed to the website would be idea. Ashton Nelson will reach out to CCPS Web team to see if this is possible. At minimum, something could be addressed for SECAC membership.

### **Upcoming Events**

- 11/31/2022, New IQ @ Calvert Country School.
- 12/08/2022, “When the bus stops coming” @ Board of Education
- 1/17/20223 Special Needs Trust @ Board of Education
- 1/20/2023, “Maryland ABLE” Held virtually

Please contact Sue Rafalowski for more information

[parentconnections@calvertnet.k12.md.us](mailto:parentconnections@calvertnet.k12.md.us)

- 02/03/3032 “Try College for a day @ CSM LaPlata
- 03/21/2023 “Summer Youth Employment via DORS Introductory Meeting @ Board of Education
- 03/23/2023 “Guardianship Information Session” @ Board of Education
- 04/14/2023 “Secondary Transition EXPO” @ CSM Prince Frederick

Please contact Paul Reilly for more information: [ReillyP@calvertnet.k12.md.us](mailto:ReillyP@calvertnet.k12.md.us)

### **Adjournment and Final Points**

- Next meeting is January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 6:30pm. Will be virtual unless a reason to be In-Person is presented. Agenda and draft minutes to be sent 2 weeks prior.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm