

Calvert County Public Schools
Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes: February 7, 2023

Attendees:

Joseph Cormier, Chairperson
Robin Truslow, Parent
Sue Rafalowski, Parent Connections, Partners for Success
Samantha Mathieson, Parent
Amy Cox, CCPS Teacher
Ashton Nelson, Secretary SECAC
Shelly Baden, Parent
Paul Reilly, CCPS Secondary Transition Specialist
Dr. Holly Briscoe, CCPS Social worker
Dr. Kendy Anderson, Director of Special Education
Joanne Koterwas, Parent

Welcome and Introductions

Meeting began at 6:30pm. Joe Cormier welcomed all and held introductions. Meeting norms and expectations were reviewed. Please reach out to Joe with questions.

Meeting Minute Approval

January meeting minutes were reviewed. No calls for edits or issues. Motion to approve by Ashton Nelson, 2nd from Samantha Mathieson. Approved. To be posted on website.

Presentation by Dr. Holly Briscoe

“Thinking about Thinking: What is Executive Functioning” Due to the clinical nature of the information provided, it is advised that you speak directly to your child’s mental health professional regarding executive functioning concerns. If you have other questions or concerns, please reach out to your child’s school to be connected with their assigned school Psychologist.

Directors Report/Treasury Report

Budget for upcoming year is out now and open for comment. Find HERE: [Budget - Calvert County Public School District \(calvertnet.k12.md.us\)](https://calvertnet.k12.md.us). Joe reiterated the need for advocacy. Budget report/Staffing plan will be ready in April for presentation to SECAC. No change in SECAC Budgeting. Dr. Anderson stated that she has not yet received the MSDE Report. Will present to SECAC as soon as it is received. A question was posed if we have staffing vacancies and how they are being handled. Dr. Anderson stated that gaps are being filled with contracted employees, however that does not easily compare to trying to fill all positions having a CCPS employee vs contractor. Moves are purposefully not being placed at this time due to the backfill of staffing that would have to happen and this would take staff out of buildings, which is desired to keep at a minimum at this time. Mrs. Koterwas inquired about signing bonuses and incentives being offered. Dr. Anderson explained that that is an HR/negotiations question, but there are changes in non-compete clauses that will make it easier for contracted employees to become CCPS Employees. Joe indicated that there are statewide staffing and budget struggles and that more programs to create a community “student to teacher” pipeline should be investigated.

Public Comment/Upcoming Events

- February 28, 2023 5:30-6:30 “Basics” School Readiness Series : Behavior event, Location changed to Calvert Country School for space.
- April 19, 2023 6:30-7:30 (VIRTUAL) Toilet Training Virtual Workshop Contact Sue Rafalowski for more information parentconnections@calvertnet.k12.md.us
- February 23, 2023 6:30-8:30 (VIRTUAL) Self-Directed Services Contact Sue Rafalowski for more information parentconnections@calvertnet.k12.md.us
- March 23, 2023 6:00-7:00pm @ Board of Education Guardianship Workshop Contact Sue Rafalowski for more information parentconnections@calvertnet.k12.md.us
- March 1, 2023, Fostering Independence workshop.
- March 21, 2023, Summer Youth Employment information session. By Paul Reilly with DORS. For Juniors. BOE Multipurpose room from 6-8pm. Contact Paul Reilly for more information reillyp@calvertnet.k12.md.us
- SECAC Awards will be held on April 20, 2023. Nominations due March 10th Found online here: [2022-23 ANNUAL Calvert SECAC STAFF APPRECIATION AWARDS \(office.com\)](#) Printer friendly Copy: [SECAC Staff Appreciation Awards \(finalsite.net\)](#)

Adjournment and Final Points

Paul Reilly reported that the annual “Try College for a Day” partnered with CSM was a great, successful day for Tri-County students. Joe commented that all should be looking into the bills that are going through the MD General Assembly related to education, more specifically regarding State Complaints and the process of changing the “Burden of Proof” from the Parent to the School staff. When posed a question regarding this, Dr. Anderson indicated that politics should not be involved here and parents/community members should research and advocate for what works best for themselves and their children. New procedures regarding flier distribution for the district were discussed. Now a general area of the website will be used to display non-CCPS approved flyers. Found here: [Community Events - Calvert County Public School District \(calvertnet.k12.md.us\)](#) There are still lots of questions surrounding how this impacts SECAC and Partners for Success. Will continue to work with Chief of Communications about clarifications needed and how to best reach families through these avenues.

Next meeting will be held virtually on March 7th, 2023 at 6:30. Meeting concluded at 8:00pm. If you have any questions, please contact Joe Cormier at Joseph.SOMD.Leaders@gmail.com