

Citizen Advisory Committee
Calvert County Board of Education
October 23rd, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Members Attended:

James Arthur
Steven Nowicki
William Miller
Veronica Simmons
Andrew Clark
Greg Cooper
Kristina Nicely
Maggie Silverman
Amanda Pullen-McGrath
J.C. Hooker
Christine Schrumpf
Sarah David
Rama Latin
Felicia Sorrells
Akela Dogbe

Board Members:

Lisa Grenis
Jana Post

C.C.P.S. Staff:

Matt Poteet
Karen Maxey
Susan Johnson
Tony Navarro

Presenters:

Rene Daniels, Chief Information Officer
Jackie Jacobs, Director of System and Instructional Performance
Kendy Anderson, Director of Special Education

Documents for the Record:

- Each member of the committee was provided with an agenda sheet, as well as the minutes from the last meeting on September 25th.

- Each member was provided with a packet that coincided with the planned presentations—for the Department of Instruction as well as for Special Education.

Call to Order:

- Ms. Maxey called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Presentations:

- Prior to the beginning of the planned presentations, Ms. Daniels reported on updates to the website per the suggestions from the committee. The Department of Instruction was highlighted as the next main focus, including the website resources dedicated to Special Education. Ms. Daniels requested that the committee continue this endeavor so as to continually improve the website and app interface with constructive feedback.
- Ms. Jacobs proceeded with a presentation regarding the Department of Instruction. She delineated subgroups on the website, such as childcare, pre-k application, etc. and the supervisors overseeing each subgroup. Priorities listed were curriculum, professional learning, and assessment. Ms. Jacobs elaborated in detail about the process through which curriculum is created or purchased, delineated by quality (such as Tier 1), and reviewed. An in-depth discussion of the assessment process was also well received by the committee, who asked helpful questions that lead to a better understanding of what can be expected within CCPS in regards to testing, and what new ideas are currently being considered.
- Dr. Anderson followed with a presentation on Special Education, beginning with a thorough explanation of specialty areas (such as autism and IEP creation) as well as the current supervisors for each area of need. Dr. Anderson listed inclusive practices as a major current initiative, as well as a focus on individualization and troubleshooting current procedures. FAPE and Childfind were elaborated upon as the means through which children with special needs are identified, which in turn highlighted the challenges of the current teacher shortage. Questions from the committee were clarified regarding IEP accessibility and delivery turnaround and distinctions in the responsibilities of general education vs. special education instructors.

Questions with the Board:

- The committee was given the opportunity to ask questions in a free-form style of the two board members present, Ms. Lisa Grenis and Ms. Jana Smith Post. An allotment of the designated meeting time was dedicated to this opportunity, and a collaborative conversation ensued. Topics of concern ranged from IEP creation and enforcement, to school safety in regards to illicit substances such as vape pens, among others. The board members graciously engaged in conversation with the committee until such time that all present were prepared to conclude.

Conclusion/Meeting Adjourn:

- Ms. Maxey concluded the meeting at approximately 7:35 pm. Committee members were encouraged to forward any further questions or comments to Ms. Maxey or other speakers, and asked to complete the ongoing website survey in the areas of the Department of Instruction and Special Education before the next meeting.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Kristina Nicely.