

Special Education Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – 11/21/24

11/21/24 @ 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Carroll Community College
Room M157
1601 Washington Road
Westminster, MD 21157

12:00 pm Welcome

Presenter: Kristin Hoffman

Reviewed October minutes

Update from Family Support Network on upcoming events

12:05 pm Meeting Feedback

Presenter: Kristin Hoffman

Agenda will be distributed one week before meeting

Meeting minutes posted to SECAC page on CCPS website within 2 weeks
(<https://www.carrollk12.org/academics/special-education/parent-and-family-resources>)

Feedback form/End of Meeting Survey - please complete as this is information that is used to complete our end of year presentation to the BOE

Action Plan:

1. Email SECAC@carrollk12.org if interested in committee
2. Think about applying for CEC Special Education Conference, Baltimore, March 12-15, 2025.
3. Advocate at Board of Education meeting level if you feel that it is needed.

12:15 pm Learning Opportunity

Presenter: Kristin Hoffman

Council for Exceptional Children is having a 3 day conference in Baltimore March 12-15, 2025. More information is available at <https://exceptionalchildren.org/events/cec-2025-convention-expo>

CCPL has scholarship monies for 2 people (CCPL staff or parents) from Carroll to attend. SECAC would like to see 2 people from our membership attend.

Will provide professional learning. SECAC is requesting that selected people be willing to attend June 11th BOE meeting.

A selection committee will be utilized to determine attendees and selection to be made by week of January 6, 2025.

12:30 pm Choose to Include

Presenters: Yona Schaap and Kate Smith, CCPS Instructional Consultants for Inclusion

Update from meeting of last year of continues progress

Continued intentional choosing of focus schools so that program opportunity to grow and focus on student population at each facility.

Main teaching point for staff has been “how to improve the classroom environment to take away the barriers for the child”.

Currently have increased the focus schools to 8 elementary schools, 7 middle schools and 3 high schools.

Inclusion is becoming more prominent in Carroll County. There have been no studies since the 1970's that say exclusion works.

IEPs are starting to become more induvialized because of inclusion.

CCPS staff have access to an Inclusion Hub on Schoology that includes lots of resources. For parents to have access to information, staff must share with parent.

Inclusion programs need advocating. Contact your school administrators, school board, etc.

2:30 pm CCPL School Security

Presenter: Curtis Pierce

Update to last year's presentation

All exterior doors at CCPS facilities are shut and locked at all times. Periodic perimeter checks are performed by Security/Maintenance staff.

Communication boards are in schools and currently being used. Any child with communications concerns during distressing events should have this identified on IEP.

Feedback form

S: What are the strengths that were discussed at this SECAC meeting?

- Inclusion in CCPS is spreading throughout many of the public schools and improves the experiences of all students. Safety and security practices are inclusive to students with extra support needs and parents can be assured that their students are safe while at school.
- Growth in inclusion across schools; indicators can be implemented across the board regardless of severity of disability
- The inclusion discussion was great.

E: Name an experience that influences your feedback.

- I am a parent who is a big fan of inclusion
- I work with an adult provider who works with students in employment programs before graduation. I screen all people interested in adult services through DDA waivers and lead Mandt trainings at our Westminster location. Mandt training teaches people how to support people to de-escalate situations by using the least restrictive techniques possible.
- I am a parent who wants more opportunities for inclusion.
- I am a parent who promotes inclusion.

C: What are the challenges or areas of potential improvement that were discussed at this SECAC meeting?

- limitation of just two inclusion consultants to serve the entire county- we NEED more support to spread inclusive practices to all schools and implement inclusion with integrity and not set students and staff up for failure if lacking the supports needed. Also communication with parents to keep them informed of the process and progress through the county.
- Informing parents of inclusive classrooms by sending individual emails as it applies to the teachers or presenting information at back-to-school nights
- Inclusion needs to be meaningful and that means that it takes time. The current inclusion efforts are not in all schools but the schools they are in are seeing success.
- Getting everyone on board with inclusion. Getting everyone to learn that everyone benefits from inclusion.

A: What questions do you have after this SECAC meeting?

- Are any of the CCPS security or staff trained in Mandt? To be able to safely de-escalate students who may be aggressive.
- Are high school student schedules limited as per what staff members are part of focus groups? Or can a special needs student take most any elective they would be interested in? And would that teacher receive the supports they need to meet

all student needs? How are special educators being supported through this inclusion process?

- What can SECAC do to keep the momentum of inclusion in more schools in Carroll County.

C: As a member of SECAC my comment or feedback after this SECAC meeting is....

- High schools face the most challenges in learning how to implement inclusion with integrity since the gap is much wider. It becomes more difficult for students with complex needs to be a valued member of the classroom. Also please share emergency communication boards with the EMS community so the entire special needs population can be better served in the event of an emergency, not just CCPS students.
- It would be great to have an update on the inclusion efforts every year.
- Loved the new "action points".