

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

FINAL

**Meeting Minutes January 21, 2025**

**Attendees:**

Ashton Felton, Chairperson  
Joe Cormier, Past Chairperson  
Kendy Anderson, Director of Special Education  
Shelley Baden, Vice-Chairperson  
Samantha Mathieson, Member at Large  
Lindsee Harrell, Parent, Teacher  
Kristina Tchoumak, FSS Coordinator  
Jeanette Flaim, Community Member  
Camille Khaleesi, Parent  
Susan Dudley, CCPS Physical Therapist  
Mike Shisler, Community Member

**Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting began at 6:30. Mrs. Felton reviewed the agenda. She reviewed the meeting norms and expectations. Update on the BOE – Welcome to Mellisa Goshorn, Joe Marchio & Paul Harrison. Now Jana Post as president and Lisa Grenis as vice president. Will share emails further in the agenda.

**Meeting Minute Approval**

Minutes from the November 2024 Meeting were reviewed. No input or changes were received. Approved to post. Will move forward with webpage posting.

**Directors Report/Treasury Report**

Dr. Anderson noted no change to current SECAC budget. Still open to grants for community programs, attendance to events and lectures. Requests can be made to any Executive member of SECAC. Dr. Anderson shared that budget season is starting. There are a lot of big pictures in the air, including reductions in LIR, but that a lot is “wait and see” currently. Will keep SECAC updated of the future of staffing and what this budget will look like for Special Education in CCPS.

**Review of Election information – Special Election Held**

Voting up for Chairperson and Member at large. To vote you must have attended 2 meetings within the last 12 months. Since this is a Special Election, per the by-laws this will finish this school year term and then a new election cycle to come in May/June. Ms. Baden email for votes tally. Shellbaden@gmail.com

Ashton Felton – Chairperson. Samantha Matheison – Member at Large nomination. No opposition to either, but voting occurred anyway. Will update all areas where info needs to be listed.

**SECAC Awards Nomination form Information and Timeline Discussion**

Annual SECAC Awards will be held on Wednesday, April 9th at Huntingtown High School. SECAC Awards form should go out by the end of the month. The same as last year – But this year there will be a change in the explanation. Many families may not necessarily understand how the judging occurs, so we will be adding some of the scoring areas in the

description area. Requested time back Friday March 7th, continuing the same timeline as last year. A volunteer opportunity for the SECAC Awards committee will be coming in the February Meeting. Any other adds?

<https://forms.office.com/r/fv8ntBpV9r>

### **Secondary Transition Updates & Upcoming Community Events**

There have been no large changes in secondary transition in CCPS. If you have questions about your child's transition planning – you should reach out to your case manager first. Currently there are no events for secondary transition planned.

### **Calendar Items, Public Comment and Final Thoughts**

Sheri Tardio is retired! But it does look like she is still volunteering. The new Executive director of Community Mediation Center of Calvert is LaVerne Day ( [laverne.cmcc@gmail.com](mailto:laverne.cmcc@gmail.com) ) and the CMCC email is [calvertmediation@gmail.com](mailto:calvertmediation@gmail.com)

A news article shared by Dr. Mike Shisler from NPR titled “ Special education students benefit from school integration. It doesn't always happen : NPR “ a great read. An excerpt – ““Study after study is showing that there's no harm to being included, but there's great risks of harm to being segregated,” says Jennifer Kurth, a professor of special education at the University of Kansas. “Kids [with disabilities] who are included develop better academic skills, better communication skills, better social skills, just kind of everything we try to measure.”

MSDE is releasing an inclusive practices handbook. Dr Anderson would like to make this into the spring book study for families.

State of MD Budget Cuts and Concerns – LISS, Self Directed Services, Medicaid Budget Highlights Fiscal Year 2026. Joe has reached out to many of our local leaders and BOE.

Night to Shine - Please join us February 7, 2025 from 6PM-9PM. Registration is now open! There is NO cost to our guests! Please follow this link to register a guest

<https://forms.gle/wyWepa5sGfwjA48p7> Register as a guest by 1/24/25. Volunteer form (age 16+) - <https://forms.gle/KGPZEWUp9AqhBPYR7>

### **Events:**

2/3-2/6 2025 - The ARC - Youth Transition Q&A at Calvert Libraries, 2/3 - Southern Branch. 2/4 - Twin Beaches Branch. 2/5 - Fairview Branch. 2/6 - Prince Frederick Branch.

2/7/2025 – 6-9 PM Night To Shine held at Emmanuel Church in H Town. Guests age 14+

- February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (ANNUAL STAFF APPRECIATION AWARDS)
- May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- June 10, 2025 (EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING)

Please reach out to us at any time if you have questions or are looking for resources.

Shelley Baden – [shellbaden@gmail.com](mailto:shellbaden@gmail.com)

Ashton Felton – [a.nichole13@gmail.com](mailto:a.nichole13@gmail.com)

**Meeting was adjourned at 7:16pm.**