Calvert County Public Schools
Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee

FINAL

Meeting Minutes SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

Attendees:

Ashley Felton, Chairperson
Shelly Baden, Vice-Chairperson
Ja Kitos, Secretary
Lindsee Harrel, Member-at-large
Samantha Mathieson, Member-at-large
Dr. Vernetta Christian, Director of Special Education
Kristina Tchoumak, FSS Coordinator
Tammie Rudzinski, CCPS Supervisor of Special Education
Vickie Kegley, Parent
Michele Shifflett, Parent
Joseph Cormier, Past Chairperson
Betty Lagundo, Grandparent

Welcome and Introductions and Discussion of Meeting Normas and Expectations

Meeting started 6:35pm. Chair, Mrs. Felton, reviewed agenda and norms. Introductions were completed. Reviewed mission and purpose of CCPS SECAC. The PowerPoint can be found here: Sept 2026 PPT.pdf

Review/Approval of June 2026 Minutes

Minutes from June 2026 were reviewed. No inputs or changes were identified. Minutes approved by voting members; minutes will be posted on website (Quicklinks > SECAC).

Directors Welcome & Report / Treasury Report

Dr. Christian introduced herself and detailed her background. Discussed outcome of efficiency study, initiatives including multi-tiered system of support (MTSS). Identified concerted effort to fill vacancies throughout CCPS, and remaining vacancies. Encouraged recommending to anyone who may be interested in IA positions to apply, as vacancies exist. Committed intent is for special education staff to be data-driven, student-centered leaders, focused on removing barriers to access and success for disabled students to access curriculum. Noted that special education representation exists on all committees within county. Upcoming policy changes on policy 2150 planned, target policy update during March meeting. Emphasized positive interactions; 5 E's: Excellence, Empathy, Equity, Empowering, Effectiveness.
Chair reviewed budget for beginning of year, explaining line items.

Review of New Special Education Organizational Chart

Chair reviewed updated special education organizational chart. Identified 5 key leaders.
District-consolidated org chart (Special education department, p. 9)
District positions vacancies

Key Issues Brainstorm & Upcoming Meeting Ideas

September 15 - Key issues brainstorm
October 13

November 10 - Review of bylaws
January 12
February 9
March 16
April (no meeting due to SECAC awards)
May 11 - Voting, staffing plan
June 8 - Planning and review

Potential items:

- Partner with St. Mary's and Charles counties (tri-county presentations); potentially partner with third-party (non-profit) to help fund, given limited budget and policies constraining committee.
- Identify special education policy review for specific meeting or as standing item; consider attending as group when board discusses policy #2150 in March.
- Disabilities coalition of MD coordination.

Public Comment

As of 9/14/26, no written public comments received.

Calendar Items, Public Comment and Final Thoughts

- March 20, 2027 – EXPO; Huntingtown High School
- April 21, 2027 – SECAC Awards; Calvert High School, 6:30-8:00pm.

District:

- 9/16: 2-hr early dismissal for students
- 9/24 BOE meeting, 6:00pm
- 10/2: CCPS schools closed for students

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.