Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Calvert County Board of Education
September 28, 2026

Members Attended:
Jessica Souder
Michaela Foard
Andrew Clark
Antonia Nathan
John Dodson
Terrance Jones
Michael Bowles
Joy Conway
Renee Scaggs
Felecia Sorrells
Christine Schrump
Danielle Higginbotham
Charlotte Ramage-White
Selena Ortega
Fitz Human
Kristina Nicely
Alisa Dent
Kirsten Cornice
Benjamin Lee
Jason Kitchens

C.C.P.S Staff:
Dr. Newsome
Susan Johnson
Jackie Jacobs
Karen Maxey
Zach Seawell
Marcy Gruver
Carrie Akins
Chris Jewett

Board Members:
Jana Post
Lisa Grenis
Ollie Reist

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

The new Citizen Advisory Committee members were welcomed. Each attending member was asked to introduce themselves and their connection to CCPS. Members were asked to share what inspired them to join and what did they hope to achieve through their participation.

Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month from 6 to 7:30 p.m. There is no meeting in December.

The Calvert County Board of Education recognizes the importance of meaningful parental and community input and advice.

CAC members will be expected to:

1. Attend the monthly CAC meetings at least 75% of the time throughout the course of the year.
2. Be aware of issues affecting their local communities.
3. Provide feedback to their community on information obtained during CAC meetings.
4. Support ad hoc school district committees by serving as members of those committees as appropriate.
5. Participate in group discussions on pertinent issues; and
6. Be considerate of fellow members' opinions and comments.

The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson will be selected at the October meeting. The roles and responsibilities of these positions were shared. A secretary will be selected as well.

Dr. Newsome, Superintendent, welcomed the group.

Dr. Johnson, Chief Operating Officer, highlighted what we will be doing this year.

A presentation "Building Partnerships that Support Students" was presented by:
Marcy Gruver, Communications
Carrie Akins, Career and Tech Academy
Zach Seawell, Human Resources

Dr. Gruver opened the presentation. The Strategic Plan identifies the direction, partnerships turn the direction into experiences, and volunteers provide people and capacity. We will begin with the Strategic Plan, because it gives us the shared destination.

Community Engagement is not an add-on. It is one of four priorities that supports the district vision and the graduate outcomes CCPS wants for every student. Student excellence cannot be achieved by schools working alone. The strength of our relationships with families, volunteers, businesses, and community organizations affects the opportunities students experience.

CCPS has a new Office of Communications, which gives us an opportunity to look at communication as one connected system: not just individual newsletters, websites, social media, or messages. We have many strong communication efforts across our schools and departments, but they have not always been connected by consistent expectations, platforms, or practices. Right now, we are building that foundation: clearer standards, better coordination across platforms, stronger accessibility and consistency, and meaningful ways to gather feedback and measure effectiveness.

Communications is not about sending more messages. It is about making communication across the school system more consistent, accessible, coordinated, and strategic. Ultimately, we want people to understand what is happening, know where to go for information, and see how they can be part of supporting students.

Our goal is to build a communication system that makes it easier for every family, employee, and community member to understand what is happening, know where to go, and see how they can be part of supporting students. The right level of engagement depends on the decision, the need, and the people affected. When engagement reaches the partnership level, it can open doors that schools cannot create alone.

Our Strategic Plan sets the direction. Community partners bring expertise, experiences, people, and resources that can turn that direction into meaningful opportunities for students. Ms. Akins, Principal at the Career and Technology Academy, spoke next about partnerships.

Students see where their learning can take them when community members share their expertise, open their workplaces, and work alongside our schools. Our partners help to guide and shape our students and help us to celebrate successes along the way.

Partnerships take many forms:

- Career & Technical Education (CTE) Partnerships
- Workplace Experiences
- Career Counseling
- Project-based Learning

Zach Seawell, Director of Human Resources, followed with volunteer information.



A question-and-answer period was provided following the presentation.

Ms. Post, Board President, spoke about the value of the CAC to the Board of Education. She opened the floor for discussion and questions.

A question was raised about CAC reviewing policies and providing input to the board. Ways to be involved in the policy process were shared. The floor will be opened at future CAC meetings to allow time for members to provide suggestions and recommendations for upcoming policies coming before the board for review.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.