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Citizens' Advisory Committee for Special Education

www.smccacse.org and Facebook @ CACSE – St Mary's County MD

Elizabeth Snyder, Chairperson

Leslie Popielarcheck, Vice-Chair

June Nicholas, Secretary

Meeting Minutes for May 9, 2016

Meeting held at:

St. Mary's County Public Schools – Board of Education Meeting Room
23160 Moakley Street, Leonardtown, MD, 20650

NOTE: This Meeting allowed for Conference Call-in; persons wishing to participate by Conference Call should contact Elizabeth Snyder at smccacse@yahoo.com.

1. Call to Order at 6:30 pm.
2. Introduction of Members and Parents/Community
 - a. All Officers were present (June Nicholas attended via phone); additional persons present this evening were:
 - i. Susie Fowler, Acting Director of Special Education
 - ii. Other parent representatives
3. Review and Approve Minutes – The April Minutes were approved with comments.
4. Updates from Partners for Success
 - a. The first tri-county transition exposition will be held on June 6, 2016, at the Prince Frederick Campus of the College of Southern Maryland. Events include a keynote speaker and breakout sessions. Students will be provided transportation.
5. Committee Reports
 - a. "Family Toolbox"
 - i. The Sensory Boxes continue to be utilized by the IEP chairs at various schools.
 - b. 2016 Fall Conference
 - i. Registration will open soon; the flyer/registration form has been designed and has been sent for approval.
 - ii. Funding for items provided by CACSE was tabled until the June Meeting.

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- c. "Rise Up Award"
 - i. The awards were presented at the April 27 Board of Education meeting. A full description of the award ceremony, recipients and nominees, is attached to these minutes.
 - d. Membership
 - i. New representatives are being contacted to welcome them. Elizabeth Snyder and Lisa Wade-Young are working on a welcome letter and recruitment of new representatives.
 - e. Advisement to the Board of Education
 - i. No action is currently pending.
6. Director's Report
- a. Susie Fowler, Acting Director of Special Education, filed this report.
 - i. Ms. Fowler will update SMCPS on the results of the MSDE Special Education Parent Survey later this summer.
 - ii. The 2017 Special Education Staffing Plan is forthcoming and is due to MSDE in September. CACSE will seek public comment via email and the website as was done last year.
7. CACSE Budget Report
- a. Payment was made to retain the CACSE website domain name.
 - b. Remaining expenditures for the FY 2016 budget must be completed by June 30. A review of the budget indicated that some funds were available for printing of CACSE brochures.
 - c. Earmarks for the 2016 Fall Conference will be planned in June.
8. Old Business
- a. Family Communications
 - i. School website links for the CACSE website need to be tested and updated. Updates for the PFS website could be suggested.
 - ii. Suggestions for more effective online parent/school communication via other learning management systems will be studied.
 - iii. Leslie Popielarcheck, Mandy Greer and June Nicholas will meet to update suggested "FAQ" on special education issues for the website.
 - b. Sensitivity Training
 - i. Work on this program has been tabled for the time being.
 - c. Transportation
 - i. CACSE will seek a meeting with Transportation to discuss issues.

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- d. Tri-County SECAC Meeting
 - i. An informal meeting will be set up between the three county SECAC groups to discuss mutual interests after the 2016 Fall Conference.
- 9. New Business
 - a. Elections of Officers
 - i. CACSE voted to move elections for Officers for the 2016-2017 School Year to the June Meeting. Elizabeth will send out a call for nominations.
- 10. Additional Concerns
 - a. No additional concerns were raised at this time.
- 11. Adjournment
 - a. Adjournment was at 8:00 pm.
 - b. The next CACSE Meeting shall be held on Monday, June 13, 2016 at 6:30 pm in the Special Education Conference Room, and will include Conference Call dial-in. Contact smccacse@yahoo.com for access.
 - c. There will be no July CACSE Meeting. The next Meeting will commence on August 8 at the same time.
 - d. CACSE Support Group Meetings will be suspended until September.

Rise Up Award Recipients for 2016 – Press Announcement

NOTE: This announcement has been posted on the CACSE website (<http://www.smccacse.org/>), will be sent to SMCPSS, and a link will be posted on the open page of CACSE – St. Mary’s County on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/CACSE-St-Marys-County-MD/557936827610084?sk=timeline>).

The Citizens’ Advisory Committee for Special Education for St. Mary’s County was pleased to present the Fourth Annual “Rise Up” Award at the April 29, 2016, Board of Education meeting for St. Mary’s County Public Schools. Elizabeth Snyder, Chair of CACSE, presented the awards with the assistance of Susie Fowler, SMCPSS Director of Special Education and Leslie Popielarcheck, Vice-Chair.

Three awards were presented, each of which recognizes individuals and groups in the school system and in the greater community who have gone above and beyond the normal call of duty to support our students with disabilities in their educational endeavors. Ms. Fowler said these awards recognize special educators who have gone to extraordinary efforts to support their students, and Ms Snyder said it was a tough task to select only three groups to receive the award from the many nominations offered.

This year’s recipients of a Certificate of Award, include:

- The team of Lynn Sullivan and Lorie Long, bus driver and bus aide for special needs transportation on Bus 284, serving Cpt. Walter Francis Duke Elementary School. Ms. Sullivan and Ms. Long were honored for their care and commitment to a first grader with Down’s syndrome; they are able to anticipate and support her needs, make the bus ride as smooth as possible, and have helped to maintain consistency for a child who has already experienced three different elementary schools due to redistricting and inclusion in special programs to meet her needs.
- Margaret “Peggy” Menard, COMPASS Program instructor at Great Mills High School. In addition to supporting a particular freshman with special needs stay organized with school and homework, develop social skills, and learn time management, she also supports him as a sponsor of GAMERZ, a 21st Century After School Program that helps students at risk receive academic support for core subjects, organizational skills, and practice of social skills and good sportsmanship through game play. His parents were also very grateful for her efforts in keeping them informed about upcoming events.
- The team of Joanne Clapp, general education teacher, Joyce Carey, special education teacher, Jeannie Krizovensky and Patrick McCay, paraeducators, from Chesapeake Public Charter school. This team works with a kindergarten student with Down’s syndrome, and “the bar has been set high for future educators” because they worked with him over the summer to prepare for school, attended to his IEP goals throughout the year, supported his development in motor skills, language, interactions, and life skills. His team helped him develop a love and appreciation for school that ensures future success.

Each winning school will receive selected items under CACSE’s “Family Toolbox” program, which provides educationally- and medically-oriented equipment and materials for parents and educators to use on a trial basis or to supplement their classroom instruction. Additional “Family Toolbox” items are available through the St. Mary’s County Public Library system. The special transportation bus drivers and aides will receive items toward a student incentive program, which will be developed.

Additional nominees received a Certificate of Appreciation. They include:

- The team of Shirley Geisbert, special education resource instructor, and Judy Coleman-Kla, SAIL Program instructor, at Benjamin Banneker Elementary School
- Victoria De Biase, COMPASS Program instructor, and Lisa Galati, ISIC, at Cpt. Walter Francis Duke Elementary School
- Elisa Quinn, at Chesapeake Public Charter School

- The team of Ms. Perosio and Ms. Schettini, kindergarten instructors; Ms. Ruthenburg, pre-school special education instructor, and her paraeducators; and the team of Sarah Merry, SAIL Program instructor, and Colleen Singleton, speech therapist; at Green Holly Elementary School
- Patricia Agate, COMPASS Program instructor, and Ashley Abell, special education instructor, at Margaret Brent Middle School
- The team of Sarah Bucchino, Andrea Dulude, interventionist, Amanda Huffman, Laurie McGrath, IEP Chair, Tiffany Melendez, special education instructor, Mangala Simha, paraeducator, Claire Van Beek, speech pathologist, and Sarah Wiland, special education instructor, at Park Hall Elementary School

Awardees are selected from nominations submitted by parents of children with disabilities, and reviewed by the Rise Up Committee, which is comprised of parent representatives to CACSE. CACSE is pleased to recognize the dedicated individuals who work with our students and to thank them for the amazing jobs they do every day, including teachers, paraeducators, and therapists. Many thanks to this year's recipients and nominees, the parents who shared the wonderful stories of their work, and the Director and Staff of the SMCPS Department of Special Education for their assistance.

CACSE acts as an advisory panel to the SMCPS Board of Education as part of Federal and state policy. It is made up of parents, educators, and community representatives from local and regional groups who support individuals with disabilities. Parents and educators are welcome to attend or call in to our public meetings and represent their schools or raise concerns. More information about CACSE can be found at <http://smccacse.org>.

(pictures to be posted follow this page)

(video link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fGAiw_ZkMFw Presentation begins at the 9:50 mark)

2016 Recipients of the Rise Up Award (pictures unedited)



Lorie Long, left, and Lynn Sullivan of Bus 284, Transportation Department



Great Mills High School Recipient Margaret “Peggy” Menard



Chesapeake Public Charter School Recipients (from left) Joyce Carey, Joann Clapp, Jeannie Krizovensky and Patrick McCay



All Recipients and appreciative family members