



Citizens' Advisory Committee for Special Education

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

Elizabeth Snyder, Chairperson

VACANT, Vice-Chair

June Nicholas, Secretary

Meeting Minutes for March 13, 2017

Meeting held at:

St. Mary's County Public Schools – Special Education Conference 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 6:36 pm.
2. Introduction of Members and Parents/Community
 - a. All Officers were present; additional persons present this evening were:
 - i. Susie Fowler, Acting Director of Special Education
 - ii. Wallace Roberts, Supervisor of Special Education
 - iii. Leslie Popielarcheck, Capt. Walter F. Duke Elem. School, via phone
 - iv. Chuck Slade, Park Hall Elementary School
3. Review and Approve Minutes – The September, October and January Meeting Minutes are approved; the February Meeting Minutes are approved pending email comments. There was no November or December meeting.
4. Updates from Partners for Success
 - a. The Spring 2017 calendar of workshops is underway.
5. Proclamation from the Commissioners of St. Mary's County
 - a. The Commissioners, in conjunction with the St. Mary's County Commission for People with Disabilities, has proclaimed the month of March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.
6. Committee Reports
 - a. 2017 Fall Conference
 - i. Charles County Partners for Success reports that there will be no contract with Michelle Garcia Winner after all, and that a Fall Conference will likely not be held. Charles County has requested that all remaining funds from prior conferences be split between the three county Partners for Success.

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- b. Dyslexia Program
 - i. A committee has been formed by SMCPS to investigate implementation of interventions for students struggling with specific learning disabilities such as dyslexia. The committee will develop strategies in conjunction with the MSDE Technical Bulletin on Specific Learning Disabilities, which was issued by the Maryland State Department of Education in November 2016.
 - ii. A meeting was held in January to address reading instruction, and the second meeting was held February 6; topics addressed related to mathematics instruction and dyscalculia. Current strategies and interventions were discussed.
 - iii. A third meeting will be held on April 3 to discuss writing instruction and dysgraphia.
- c. Communications
 - i. Work on the website continues and the text of draft webpages will be posted to CACSE's Google Drive in order to foster collaboration.
 - ii. CACSE will investigate switching its email from a Yahoo address to a Gmail address.
- d. Membership
 - i. An effort will be made at the next IEP Chairs' meeting to request their help in soliciting membership.
- e. By-Laws
 - i. The By-Laws will be posted in Google Drive for comment and suggestions for amendments by the end of April, with a first draft to be presented at the May Meeting.
- f. "Family Toolbox"
 - i. The Lexington Park Library has requested that the Family Toolbox bags be relocated to make space for other items as circulation and checkouts are down. CACSE will request to examine the circulation numbers.
- g. "Rise Up" Award
 - i. The nomination form for the 2017 "Rise Up" Award has been distributed electronically via Partners for Success email distribution, and has been posted online on the CACSE website in PDF format. A Google Form will also be posted online for anyone desiring to input information directly via electronic submittal. The flyer will also be distributed through PeachJar.
 - ii. CACSE discussed the use of the Google Form, how it works, and how the data could be downloaded for consideration of the nominations. Data collection will continue through mid-April, at which the Department of Special Education will assist Leslie Popielarcheck and Mandy Greer in printing or emailing the individual submissions for processing.
 - iii. The deadline for nominations for this year's award is April 7; presentation will be made at the late April Board of Education Meeting.

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- h. Advisement to the Board of Education
 - i. CACSE may speak to the Board at an upcoming Board Meeting to provide an update on recent actions.
- 7. Director's Report
 - a. Susie Fowler submitted the following report.
 - i. Maryland Special Education Parent Involvement Survey
 - 1. The annual survey seeking parental suggestions for improvement of special education in their child's school has been sent out by MSDE. Parents are requested to reply by May 1, 2017. The link to the online version of the survey is posted on the CACSE website, or families can go to: <https://www.mdparentsurvey.com/>
 - ii. Special Olympics
 - 1. SMCPs has been contacted about this year's Spring Meet; details will be forthcoming.
 - iii. Special Education Report Card
 - 1. The Special Education Report Card results for 2016-2017 have been received from the MSDE and will be discussed at the April Meeting. Preliminary information indicates that some improvements have been made; PARCC assessments results have not been included as the test is still in development.
 - iv. Multi-State Alternative Assessment
 - 1. The new Multi-State Alternate Assessment from the National Center and State Collaborative will be introduced this year for certificate-bound students; SMCPs staff will be trained next week.
- 8. CACSE Budget Report
 - a. Current earmarks for the FY 2017 budget include:
 - i. A minimum of \$250.00 in Scholarships, previously designated for attendees of the 2016 Fall Conference. Any money not utilized for reimbursements may be allotted to parents to attend other conferences.
 - ii. \$500.00 for the Rise Up Award Teacher Toolbox
 - b. The balance remaining for FY 2017 is \$1,750.00 as of October 10, 2016.
 - c. Ideas for spending the remaining balance will be discussed at the April Meeting.
- 9. Old Business
 - a. By-Laws
 - i. The By-Laws will be posted in Google Drive. Comments for amendments will be due by the end of April. A first draft will be discussed at the May Meeting.
 - b. Support Group Meetings
 - i. CACSE will consider the effectiveness of this Meeting and seek rotating coverage.

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- c. Additional Topics requiring CACSE follow-up and resolution include:
 - i. Family Communications/SMCPS website link testing
 - ii. Sensitivity training for educators
 - iii. Transportation issues related to wheelchair and assistive equipment use
 - iv. Feedback from the MSDE Parent Surveys for Special Education

10. New Business

- a. Elections for the 2017-2018 School Year
 - i. A call for nominations to the CACSE Executive Board will be made at the April Meeting, with elections taking place at the May Meeting.

11. Public Comment

- a. For the March 13 Meeting there were no individuals offering public comment.

12. Reports from Agencies and Organizations

- a. There were no Agency Reports this evening.
- b. Reaching for the Stars
 - i. March 25 will be the National Cerebral Palsy Awareness Day; supporters are encouraged to wear green in support. A tee shirt fundraiser can be found at <http://www.tfund.com/GG4CP-2017>

13. Questions and Concerns

- a. Students with mental health concerns, bullying, and suicide
 - i. CACSE discussed a recent tragedy involving a Spring Ridge Middle School student. Several issues were discussed, including whether the school had a PBIS (Positive Behavior in Schools) team or other behavior protocols in place, whether a child with an IEP can qualify for mental health services, and what the relationship is in the SMCPS system for co-morbid disorders (educational disability and mental health diagnosis).
 - ii. Options for CACSE for further action include looking into the relationship between disability services and mental health services, issues related to school bullying, especially of students with disabilities, and what resources might be needed to support educators.

14. Adjournment

- a. Adjournment was at 7:24 pm.
- b. The next CACSE Meeting shall be held on Monday, April 3, 2017 at 6:30 pm in the Special Education Conference Room, and will include Conference Call dial-in. Contact smccacse@yahoo.com for access. (Early due to Spring Break)
- c. The next CACSE Support Group Meeting shall be held just prior to the regular November Meeting.