

Baltimore County Board of Education Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee

Monday, November 14, 2005

BCPS/Greenwood Campus/ESS Building

The Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) meeting was called to order at 7:10PM. Approximately 23 participants were in attendance. In addition to parents, community representatives, central and northwest area specialists, personnel, and Executive Directors, the principals from Summit Park Elementary and Randallstown High Schools attended the meeting.

Ms. Jasmine Shriver, SECAC Chair, welcomed all to the meeting and invited parents and members who were interested to attend the Transition Conference on December 1, 2005.

SECAC has been invited to have dinner with the Board of Education on Tuesday, January 24, 2006 at 6:00PM. The dinner is a wonderful opportunity for us as parents to gather additional information, updates and responses to the independent-evaluation of the BCPS Special Education Program conducted by Dr. Lou Barber during the 2003-04 school year that highlighted six major themes:

1. Educating Students with Disabilities in LRE
2. Organization of Special Education Support Services to Schools
3. Monitoring Compliance with Federal and State Mandates
4. Cost Containment
5. Professional Development
6. Web-based IEP System

Please contact Ms. Shriver or Mr. Lupo for more information.

The evening's main topic was the Alternate Maryland School Assessment. Mrs. Shriver welcomed Ms. Sara Egorin-Hooper, Supervisor, Alt-MSA, Autism, and Behavior Support.

LRE

Ms. Judy Glass, Director, Office of Special Education gave an update on LRE. On October 24, 2005, BCPS held a system-wide professional development addressing inclusive education. All school offices and classrooms received a copy of the BCPS Guide for Inclusive Education.

WEB-BASED IEP

Ms. Glass then updated the group about the BCPS web-based IEP system (Tie-Net). There are five pilot schools currently using the system and providing valuable feedback to the Office of Special Education and the vendor. By December, all northeast and southeast high schools will have been trained on the web-based system. BCPS will begin phasing the system in with high schools in order that no students go from a Web-based school to a One System school.

STAFFING PLAN

Following Ms. Glass' update, Ms. Marcella Franczkowski, Coordinator of Placement and Birth to Five, spoke on the Special Education Staffing Plan. The Special Education community forums were held on November 7th at three locations county-wide. The forums were extremely successful; there over 300% increase in attendance. At Ms. Jan Thomas' suggestion, BCPS sent an invitational postcard to the parents of all student's with an IEP. This is largely credited with the increase in attendance.

The next Special Education Community Forum is on Tuesday, April 4, 2006. More information to follow.

BUDGET

Ms. Robin Bosley, Supervisor of Related Services, announced that she is preparing a one time presentation to the BOE for Budget consideration. The presentation addresses Deaf and Hard of Hearing Equipment. Much of the county's equipment is not compatible with new cochlear and digital hearing aid technology that youngsters are using.

PARENT RESOURCE CENTER

Ms. Jean Considine, Parent Resource Coordinator, discussed PTA Special Education Liaisons. 101 BCPS schools have Special Education Liaisons and 65 do not. The purpose of the liaison project is a parent-to-parent network. Ms. Shriver asked BCPS to encourage each school to recruit liaisons. The PTA Council of Baltimore County is working with Ms. Considine on informing and recruiting liaisons.

ALT-MSA

The meeting was turned over to Ms. Sara Egorin-Hooper who presented information on the Alt-MSA. An open discussion followed her presentation. For copies of the information that was shared, please contact Jacob Lupo at JLupo@bcps.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Baltimore County Commission on Disabilities meets the second Wednesday of each month at the Hannah Moore School in Reisterstown. For more information, contact Ben Dubin. The commission has just recently completed a study on schools/programs accessibility.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47PM.

Respectfully submitted by Jacob Lupo