

SECAC of Prince George's County Public Schools
Executive Board Meeting (before official meeting with Dr. Downing-Hosten)
12 July 2007
Barnes & Noble Bookstore Cafe - Bowie Town Center

Attending:

Chair: Mike McLaughlin

Vice Chair: Lillie Bond

Treasurer: Meg Dillon

Secretary: Sarah Wayland

(Assistant Secretary: Gail Voigt was absent due to a conflict.)

Melonee Clark: Special Advisor to the Committee

We discussed possible meeting topics.

August 28th - Discuss Special Education Programs available in the county at a level - that novice parents can understand. Have Dr. Downing-Hosten send a representative if she can't attend.

September 25th - Procedures & Safeguards workshop

with other topics to include:

- Related Services
- Working with Principals
- Standardizing an approach to a good IEP experience

We discussed the website, listserve, babysitting, principals, treasury expenses, file cabinets, projector & laptop, TIES, by-laws, and tried to figure out if we could meet with Dr. Downing Hosten on July 26th in the evening.

Sarah Wayland talked about listserve/website options, which ranged from (a) being part of the PGCPSS website, to (b) renting a virtual server on a remotely hosted machine and installing and running our own software, to (c) something in-between hosted by a locally run company that will deal with technical issues for us. We will need to purchase a domain, server space, and software to keep the website updated.

No one wanted to be part of the PGCPSS site. Meg Dillon pointed out that whomever we go with has to be an "approved vendor with the PGCPSS which requires filling out some paperwork. Sarah Wayland agreed to look into the costs, and Meg will send me the information on how to become an "approved vendor".

The board also talked about whether to stick with the Yahoo! Listserve or go with listserve software that comes with our website (most website maintenance packages include listserve software.) They liked the idea of the Yahoo! site because so many people go there to search for groups of interest to them. Ms. Wayland pointed out that some of the sign-up constraints can be incredibly irritating, and that you cannot save attachments, and other such limitations. The board agreed that she should look into the other options/costs.

The committee talked about getting babysitting for the SECAC meetings. Apparently SECAC cannot use SECAC or PGCPSS funds to pay for it, but we talked about offering it as an option, with parents who do bring children contributing to paying the sitter. We would also have to arrange for a room at The Arc. Melonee is looking into that.

We discussed taking minutes at the IEP meetings and including them in the official IEP. We would like PGCPSS to start making this a standard part of the IEP, rather than just having a summary.

We also discussed some issues pertaining to the transition from Special Education Centers to providing services in neighborhood schools. These issues included:

- children moving from school to school should remain with their 'program'.
- during the transition phase, we should give parents the choice of allowing their children to remain with a single school just as regular ed students are allowed to do (this issue generated some dialog after the

meeting in e-mail - clearly the approach is still under discussion.)

Ms. Dillon gave a report on the current state of our finances, including the Awards Ceremony, the laptop, and the projector we are planning to purchase. We also discussed where to store these things. Melonee said that Cathy (spelling?) at the Arc was not receptive to donating space for a cabinet to house our stuff, but that if Mike wanted to call and ask, he was welcome to do so. He agreed to try.

Melonee talked about the TIES program and how it is coming together. She's got breakout sessions scheduled for (1) transition from early childhood -> elementary school, (2) transition after graduation from High School, (3) Functional Behavior Analysis, and (4) Facilitated IEP meetings.

Regarding the by-laws, Ms. Dillon pointed out that the by-laws do not mention the office of treasurer or their duties, and she suggested that they put them in. She further recommended that they add the position of "assistant secretary". Ms. Bond is working on getting the by-laws in order for final ratification.

Other items from the agenda:

Resource Fair (Melonee & Mike) - apparently over 200 families attended, and it went really well.

State of Inclusion Report (Mike, Melonee, Lillie) - Mike says it is almost complete - they are at the final editing stage.

Respectfully submitted
26 July 2007
Sarah Wayland
SECAC-PG Secretary