

SECAC-PG Monthly Meeting - Minutes of March 25, 2008

The Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) was called to order by the Chair, Mike McLaughlin at 6:48 PM, March 25, 2008 at the ARC of Prince George's County.

Persons attending: Mike McLaughlin, Lillie Bond, Gail Voigt, Judith Kachinske, Lorraine Philyan, Lakwona Simmons, Tjameika Purnell Davenport, Vivian Williams, Abila Tozoner Legall. Welcomes and Introductions were given around the meeting table.

The February SECAC-PG meeting minutes were available at the meeting and they were seconded and approved.

Mike McLaughlin brought up the idea about including student photos on the SECAC-PG Home Page. Basically, the issue is to use a collage of student photos which are already public domain or to obtain a release from the parents to use the photos on the SECAC-PG Home Page. To reduce the complexity of the issue, Mike indicated that SECAC-PG would probably use public domain student photos unless a SECAC member specifically wanted to include their child's photo on the website.

The launching of the SECAC-PG website has been a great success and such an undertaking for Sarah Wayland. Not only did Sarah launch the website but is also adding new content such as the information from a CD which lists many MSDE documents which can be used by parents.

The Extraordinary Service Awards nominations are coming in albeit at a slower rate than last year. Therefore, Mike McLaughlin sent out another award nomination letter. The Extraordinary Service Awards committee also created 2 new service categories, the Extraordinary Effort Award which was awarded to Sarah Wayland for her SECAC-PG website initiative and the Extraordinary Partner Award which was awarded to MNCPPC. MNCPPC is recognized as an organization which has increased inclusive opportunities for students such an improved after-school care program which includes transportation as well as inclusive opportunities in the summer camps. A second after-school care program is in the planning stages for next year in the southern part of the county.

As to the details of the Extraordinary Service Awards banquet, awards have been ordered for this year's ceremony based on the SECAC-PG budget. The next year's Extraordinary Service Awards will use previously ordered awards which will be held in the SECAC-PG supply cabinet.

Since catered food is not in the present SECAC budget category and due to cuts in PGCPs funding the SECAC is not asking PGCPs for food funds. Judith Kachinske has suggested that SECAC funds could be used for food and refreshments for the Extraordinary Service Awards banquet by obtaining non-catered foods such as prepared sandwiches, etc.

Next year's SECAC-PG budget needs to be in to Judith Kachinske by April 30 and will be sent to MSDE on May 2.

SECAC-PG, PGCPS and the ARC of Prince George's County are partnering for the May 30 Kathie Snow presentation. SECAC-PG will be offering \$1500 for their part in the presentation. And another note, MNCPPC will require the Special Populations staff to attend the Kathie Snow presentation.

There was much discussion of how to increase attendance at meetings. Lillie Bond indicated that more parents used to attend the meetings. Suggestions included:

1. Distribute SECAC brochures at Infants & Toddlers Forum
2. Create a TV short/advertisement on CTV and/or PGCPS TV
3. Distribute SECAC brochures at the IEP meeting
4. Distribute SECAC brochures with the IEP notice, mailed or sent home
5. Distribute SECAC brochures at the public libraries. Barbara Hurley may be able to help.
6. List the SECAC meeting notices with the Prince George's Gazette and the Washington Post.
7. List the SECAC meeting notices with the PGCPS Blackboard.
8. Send out SECAC meeting notices earlier.

Additional publicity comments were brought up with the SECAC brochure. Who and how can print the SECAC brochure be printed? Should the SECAC funds be used? Should PGCPS print the brochures? How can the brochures be distributed to the schools? Lillie Bond suggested that a SECAC Executive Board Meeting be scheduled with Dr Downing-Hosten to discuss printing and distribution alternatives.

Nominations for the Executive Board for the upcoming year were called. Mike McLaughlin was nominated for Chair, Lillie bond for Vice-Chair, Sarah Wayland for Secretary, Gail Voigt for Assistant Secretary, Meg Dillman for Treasurer. Lillie Bond made a motion for close the nominations for this meeting and open the nomination process to the Listserv. An Email will be sent leaving the nominations open for 2 weeks.

Judith Kachinske gave a review of PGCPS activities. The Annual Review process was in full swing. Grant proposal writing was also in full gear. On March 13, there was a meeting at MSDE to discuss the grant proposal writing. PGCPS will try and apply for as many grants as possible. The MEANS initiative training is held in teams with more students entering in the upcoming year.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:58 PM.

Sincerely,

Gail Voigt
Assistant Secretary