

**Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee of Prince George's County
General Membership Meeting Minutes**

December 2, 2008 at 6:30 P.M. at The Arc of Prince George's County

Attending:

Mary Bell, Coordinating Supervisor of Special Education Special Projects - PGCPSS
Mike McLaughlin
Sarah Wayland
Lillie Bond
TjaMeika Purnell Davenport
Sherry Lauffer (sp?)

SECAC-PG business:

Our membership asked PGCPSS Department of Special Education to develop a set of IEP meeting standards (beyond those described in the Procedural Safeguards document) and communicate those standards to all involved in developing IEPs (administrators, teachers, special educators, specialists, and parents.)

One member asked how parents should be informed about testing to be done on their child. She wanted to know whether parents should be notified regarding which tests will be done, and whether parental consent is required. [I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT THE ANSWER WAS. NEED HELP.]

Mary Bell announced that PGCPSS will have supervisors from different support services offices present at the SECAC meetings over the next few months. The presentation schedule for the supervisors is:

January - Speech and Language
February - Assistive Technology
March - Occupational Therapy
April - Physical Therapy
May - Adapted Physical Education

Come with your questions!

Director's Update:

Mary Bell talked about the PGCPSS Compliance Report from MSDE. She reported that MSDE evaluates PGCPSS on 20 indicators. PGCPSS self-reports on these measures, and then MSDE does an independent audit to determine whether PGCPSS is in compliance. MSDE evaluated PGCPSS high schools this year, and PGCPSS is under "corrective action" for 3-5 of them. Ms. Bell mentioned that Special Education and ELL students made AYP, but PGCPSS is out of compliance in the areas of (a) providing a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) and (b) discipline.

Department of Special Education Website update - At the time of the meeting, the website wasn't quite ready. They were waiting for one last person's changes to be ready to roll out. Since then, the site has gone live. What an improvement! <http://www1.pgcps.org/specialeducation/>

Information Sharing:

Do you want your IEP meeting facilitated by an independent person trained in meeting facilitation? - You can request this through the PGCPs Special Education Compliance office. (Dr. LaRhonda Owens, Coordinating Supervisor, (301) 817-3137).

Mike McLaughlin announced that the People-First Language policy proposal was approved by the Board of Education! This means that People First language will now be officially part of all written and spoken communication by PGCPs school personnel (voted 9-1 by School Board). Mike is working on providing PGCPs with a style guide.

Mr. McLaughlin also mentioned a presentation on Universal Design in Learning to be presented at Montgomery Blair on Wednesday night. <http://www.cast.org>.

Last but not least, the SECAC-PG will host a workshop on the Alt-MSA on Wednesday January 14th at 6:30 pm. Representatives from the Maryland State Department of Education and PGCPs will make a presentation and can answer your questions. Refreshments will be provided. (Learn more at: http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/testing/alt_msa/).

Next meeting: Jan. 27th, 2009