

SECAC – PG GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
June 23, 2009

Attending:

Lillie Bond

Mike McLaughlin

Gail Voigt

Sarah Wayland

Vanessa Ridgeway

Mary Bell (PGCPS)

Elections for the school year 2009 - 2010 were held. SECAC-PG bylaws state that an elected officer should remain in the specific, elected office for a maximum 2 year period. Since the number of persons available to serve is limited this year, not every elected position can be changed over to a new person. Regardless, those eligible to vote (based on attending at least 3 SECAC meetings this school year) voted Mike McLaughlin and Sarah Wayland to be Co-Chair, Lillie Bond, Vice-Chair, Gail Voigt, Secretary. The Assistant Secretary and Treasurer are currently unfilled. Since the bylaws do not mention an elected position of Co-Chair, Lillie Bond moved that she would modify the bylaws. This motion was moved, seconded and unanimously passed.

Mary Bell gave a Special Education update. The nine education administrative zones have changed to 4 areas and a High School consortium. The area locations are specified on the PGCPS website. The Special Education Summer Workshop offered by PGCPS will be on the topics, How to write an IEP, conduct assessments, etc.

A question came up as to if principals were able to access their teachers' professional development. If principals were able to gain access to their staff professional development, the principal would be better able to plan. Mary Bell will check this question and get back to the SECAC.

A parent questioned whether a parent can request a different SLP/OT/PT for their child than the one assigned to the school. Mary Bell said 'No'. The parent could check with the supervisor, but the related service personnel are assigned to the school, not the child.

There was a general discussion concerning how to get more parent participation. Some of the questions from those at the meeting were: Should there be a SECAC Representative at PTA meetings? Should there be a SECAC Facebook page? Should there be outreach to different disability organizations? Mary Bell

indicated that Montgomery county has a county-wide PTA with a representative from each PTA. The Special Education department learns a great deal from these meetings.

Another discussion ensued about who can distribute information about the SECAC-PG. Does the ARC or Parent Resource Center?

Mike brought up a topic as to what kind of topics brought up at the SECAC meetings? One possibility is a talk by Katharina Boser, a neuropsychologist from PGCPs. A proposal of an Open House with light snacks at the August (maybe September) SECAC meeting was brought up. Parents could meet Dr Downing-Hoston and bring up issues, changes they would like to see. This meeting could be advertized at the Back to School Night with the list of SECAC meetings.

Sue Rattner from Cecil County has given trainings on best practices for a specific disability as it relates to the Alt-MSA.

There is also a publication, "How to address Questions and Concerns: A Guide for Parents and Guardians" is a list of whom to direct questions and issues to officials from PGCPs. Parents are encouraged to direct their concerens to the persons most closely involved. However, when initial contacts fail to provide resolution, a parent may file a formal complaint and seek review at a higher administrative level".

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Voigt
Secretary – SECAC-PG