

SECAC Meeting: October 22, 2013

The following people attended the October 22, 2013 meeting:

Mary Bell, Rose Blucher, Pamela Talley, Lisa Belcastro, Beth Ann Hancock, Shelia Robinson, Shemika McCrae, Peggy Besanko, Ed Hendel, Kay Kane, Cynthia Baker, Chris Casey, Sharon Laufer
Duane Arbogast, Calvin Hodnett, Georgette Green-Hodnett, Candy Bracey Davis, Amani Kharma
Kim Tart, Liz Burley, Meg Dillman, Tresa Robinson, Enid Smith, Stacey Travers, Anne McClain, Jeanette Copeland, Joan Rothgeb and Mike McLaughlin.

The meeting was opened by welcome and introductions of attendees.

Kay Kane presented the results from the survey Parents of Children with Learning Disabilities who attend Prince Georges County Public Schools (PGCPS). The survey is co-written by Tracy Content and Sarah Wayland, with advice and insight from Marilyn Clune and Beth McCracken-Harness. There were sixty-two parents' responses, and thirty-one schools that were represented. The focus of the survey is to provide insight on how well PGCPS are delivering services to children with learning disabilities. A complete report of the survey is posted at <http://secacpg.org/Presentations.html>.

Duane Arbogast, Chief Academic Officer noted that we should keep on pushing the envelope to get technology for children with learning disabilities. All kids learn differently.

Joan Rothgeb noted that the new Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook is on the PGCPS website. There is a big section on bullying and also there is a section on powering-up with technology, which can assist parents to deal with these types of issues.

Rose R. Blucher from "Twice-Exceptional Learners" was the guest speaker. She presented on twice-exceptional learners (gifted children) and expressed that all children are gifted. She asked that parents take a look at their child's learning styles. In addition, she noted that parents should attend to the gifts and strengths instead of deficits. Finally, she concluded with the message – knowing our strengths and there is always hope for our kids.

SECAC will plan for a Board of Education Presentation. SECAC will also highlight its vision and mission to the Board of Education members, as well as areas of concern. This usually takes place at least once a year; Peggy Higgins (board member) has recommended that the presentation be early in the year; October would be ideal.

Information sharing – A suggestion box has been placed in the back for parents to note topics that they will be interested to talk about.