

SECAC-PG Board Meeting
22 August 2014
10:00 am
John Carroll ES, Health Room

Attending:
Joan Rothgeb
Mary Bell
Pamela Talley
Sarah Wayland

UPDATE FROM DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

Joan Rothgeb started the meeting by showing us a poster describing the Coherence Framework that Dr. Maxwell is using to guide the changes he is implementing in PGCPs. This framework was based on the input he got from numerous stakeholder focus groups he convened last year; and the Department of Special Education is using it to guide their work. We discussed two books that PGCPs staff have been reading as well - *Data Wise: A Step-by-Step Guide to Using Assessment Results to Improve Teaching And Learning*, Edited by Kathryn Parker Boudett, Elizabeth A. City, and Richard J. Murnane and *Great by Choice: Uncertainty, Chaos, and Luck--Why Some Thrive Despite Them All* by Jim Collins & Morten T. Hansen.

Joan Rothgeb talked about meetings she'd just hosted – one with the chairs of the Special Education departments, and the other for the paraprofessionals and ISEAs at all Elementary, Middle & High Schools. The training for paraprofessionals included information on Universal Design for Learning, IDEA, how to support literacy, how to appropriately address challenging behaviors, and information about the Alt-MSA.

NEW ACADEMIC RESOURCE CURRICULUM

Mary Bell told us that the Academic Resource Curriculum for students in middle and high school was extensively updated and revised this year by Julia Watson (Instructional Specialist - Autism) and Peggy Besanko (Instructional Specialist - Gifted with Special Learning Needs). She is excited about the new skills the students will be taught.

SPECIAL EDUCATION STAFF – ORGANIZATION CHART

We talked a bit about who is in charge of which programs, as there have been some changes over the summer. Karen Andrews oversees the CRI programs and the Regional Schools, Mary Bell oversees the nonpublic schools and the autism programs. Scott Geist oversees the orthopedic programs. Joan Rothgeb said she would send us an updated organizational chart so we could see who was now in charge of which programs.

TYPE 2 PROGRAM PILOT AT CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Mary Bell told us about a new program that will be starting at Central High School this fall – Kennedy Krieger Institute will be running a nonpublic autism program for 9th and 10th grade students who are on the diploma track, but who may need more time to finish their requirements, and who require more support than the public schools can typically provide. These students were slated to go to a nonpublic school, but they will now go to this nonpublic school within a public high school. Kennedy Krieger staff will include a director, two teachers, a behavior specialist, and a speech language pathologist. PGCPS is providing a staff occupational therapist as well.

REGIONAL SCHOOLS

We talked about concerns that had been raised regarding the future of the students who are currently in regional schools like C.E. Reig.

Joan Rothgeb said that the issue is coordinating the "Capital Improvement Plan" (e.g., school construction) and the services provided to students who need specialized services. She was emphatic that support for these students will *always* be in place.

She said that the chances of anything happening by 2017 were extremely slim. She also said that the facilities at C.E. Reig will always remain.

That said, the goal is, as PGCPS renovates old schools and builds new ones, to provide facilities for the students who are currently at the Regional Schools in the new buildings, so that these kids will no longer be in a building by themselves, but rather in the same buildings with typically developing kids. They will be in separate classrooms when required, but the goal is to make sure that the children with very intensive needs are integrated to the maximum extent possible with the rest of the community.

This model is already in place today at Panorama and Surratsville. The plan is to get the programs in place south county, then the focus will shift to central county, and finally north county in the final stages.

We will be discussing this issue at our October SECAC meeting. Ms. Rothgeb will invite people from PGCPS to talk about how building renovation plans will be coordinated with the services required by students with disabilities to insure that they get the support they need, but in a setting where, instead of being isolated, they are part of their community.

LISTENING SESSIONS FOR PARENTS

Following the model set last year by Amber Waller, the Board of Education plans to host a series of three listening sessions for families with children who have disabilities to help them understand IEPs, how to access services, how to resolve conflicts, where to go for help, and what resources are available. Last year, families could also meet with a representative from the Department of Special Education's Compliance office to address

specific IEP related concerns. These community engagement meetings will be hosted by Verjeana Jacobs, Peggy Higgins, and Edward Burroughs III. The idea is to have one in each region of the county – south, central, and north. Exact dates still to be determined.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS FOR 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR SECAC MEETINGS

August	<i>NO MEETING</i>
September 23rd, 2014	<i>PGPCS Supports for Parents (Partners for Success Parent Center)</i>
October 28th, 2014	<i>Coordinating Special Education Programs with School Construction</i>
November 18th, 2014	<i>Transitions: To Elementary School, Middle School, High School, and Career & College</i>
December	<i>NO MEETING</i>
January 27th, 2015	<i>Commission on Special Education Access & Equity</i>
February 24th, 2015	<i>Special Education and the Common Core</i>
March 24th, 2015	<i>Assessing Progress for Students on the Certificate Track - NCSC Assessments</i>
April 28th, 2015	<i>TBD</i>
May 26th, 2015	<i>Extraordinary Service Awards Ceremony</i>
June 23rd, 2015	<i>TBD</i>
July	<i>NO MEETING</i>

We talked about inviting Dr. Shawn Joseph (Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning) and Sheila Jackson (Director, Family and Community Resource Office) – or someone from her office to come to the September 23rd meeting. Dr. Joseph is a tentative yes; we still need to contact Ms. Jackson.

NEW DEPARTMENT: FAMILY AND COMMUNITY RESOURCE OFFICE

PGCPS has created a new department, the Family and Community Resource Office. They have hired 62 COAs (Community Outreach Assistants?) to help families access the resources they need for their children. Sheila Jackson was hired into this position; she has hit the ground running.

BRINGING ROSS GREENE TO PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

The Individual Differences in Learning Association would like to bring Ross Greene (www.livesinthebalance.org) to the DC/Baltimore metro area in the 2014-2015 school year. Sarah Wayland had reached out to Dr. Greene and he said he was available in June of 2014. He charges \$7500, plus expenses.

In one of those funny coincidences of life, Mary Bell said that (unbeknownst to Sarah) the Partners for Success Parent Center had invited Ross Greene to be the keynote speaker

at their annual Parent Empowerment Conference on March 21st. On Monday, August 25th, they will know whether he will be able to attend. If so, perhaps PGPCS, the SECAC-PG, and the Individual Differences in Learning Association can all join together to bring Dr. Greene to the area.

It is Sarah's hope that Dr. Greene's message will be heard by the community at large. His approach works for everyone, not just kids with disabilities.

BUDGET UPDATE

We have \$700 remaining in our speaker budget after paying LeDerick Horne for his presentation in July. There is \$135 in the budget to pay for website hosting fees; Sarah has submitted an invoice so she can be reimbursed for those costs. We also have \$965 in the budget to pay for printing costs; Mary suggested we use it to print more brochures and make posters to hang in every school (there are ~300 schools in the PGPCS system), in addition to getting a new display board.

We realized that we do not have the original file for the SECAC brochures – only a PDF. We agreed to contact Mike McLaughlin to see if he had the original file so we can update it. (Sarah remembered that it was in MS Publisher format.)

PAYING FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE AWARDS

The Maryland State Department of Education will no longer allow money in the SECAC budget to pay for food. In 2014, the Department of Special Education graciously funded the food for the Extraordinary Service Awards banquet.

This year we've learned that the SECAC budget cannot fund food OR awards (e.g., the plaques) either. Again, Mary Bell and Joan Rothgeb have offered to fund these expenses using money from the department's budget. We have sent a note to the Board asking about alternatives, e.g., having a dessert buffet (with cream puffs, cookies, cake, and fruit) instead of a full meal and issuing certificates and not engraved plaques. None of us are happy about this; Pam in particular does not think we should serve just dessert.

VIDEO ON SPECIAL EDUCATION MAIN PAGE

We discussed the video on the main Special Education page – “Special Education is a Service Not a Place”. Joan Rothgeb had written the script for the video to emphasize the continuum of services available to students with disabilities. Pam & Sarah expressed some concern that the video clips were all of students in self-contained environments, not students in regular education classrooms, which is where the vast majority of students with disabilities are served.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:30 PM.

