

Prince George's SECAC meeting minutes 11/29/22

Executive Board members present: Sarah Wayland, board vice chairwoman; Janie Payne, board treasurer; Jamie Anfenson-Comeau, board secretary; Pamela Talley, community outreach liaison; Ayo Bello, listserv manager.

Others in attendance: See attached screen capture.

Board vice chairwoman Sarah Wayland opened the meeting at approximately 6:30 virtually via the Zoom online meeting platform. Ms. Wayland welcomed everyone attending. She introduced the executive board members in attendance, PGCPs partners and partners from The Arc of Prince George's County.

Ms. Trinell Bowman, PGCPs associate superintendent, department of special education, presented an update on the special education department's strategic plan.

Ms. Bowman also presented an update on free virtual literacy tutoring for all students in grades kindergarten through fifth.

Ms. Bowman discussed Phase 2 of public/private partnerships (P3) for school construction projects, saying there will be virtual updates held on projects over the next two weeks.

Ms. Bowman provided the Special Education Resolution Team Contact List, as well as her own contact information, [trinell.bowman@pgcps.org](mailto:trinell.bowman@pgcps.org) and 301-618-8355.

Ms. Wayland introduced Emily Pasco, PGCPs mental health coordinator, to discuss mental health supports.

Ms. Pasco said that support levels for students are divided into three tiers of support. The lowest level, Tier 1, includes social and emotional resources provided to all students, based on grade level.

Tier 2 supports include group counseling for at-risk students, check-in/check-out systems and home-school communication.

Tier 3 supports include individual counseling, group counseling, functional assessments and behavioral plans.

Ms. Pasco said that some schools have professional school counselors, school psychologists and mental health clinicians.

She said that mental health clinicians are relatively new; 152 schools in the county currently have full-time mental health clinicians, who are employed to work at schools through partnerships with mental health agencies.

Ms. Pasco said that this year, in partnership with the Prince George's county Health Department and Hazel Health, Hazel Health will be offering mental telehealth services. Telehealth services will be rolled out to middle schools and academies on Dec. 5 and to high schools on Dec. 12. Online therapy sessions can take place at school or at home. A consent form will need to be completed.

Ms. Pasco also said that evening counseling services are being provided at three locations, Parkdale, Largo and Oxon Hill high schools. These three sites provide drug counseling services and support the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook.

Ms. Pasco said that to access school-based services, they can be requested during an IEP meeting, by contacting a case manager, or by speaking to a professional school counselor or school administrator.

A question posted in the chat asked if Hazel Health will provide telehealth services in Spanish and French. Ms. Pasco said she did not know, but would check with Hazel Health and would make sure the information was provided in Hazel Health's promotional materials.

Ms. Wayland introduced Richard Moody, supervisor of student engagement and school support, to discuss what parents need to know about bullying.

Mr. Moody said that according to student data from the 2018 Maryland Tobacco Youth Risk Behavior Survey, conducted every two years, 13.2% of students said they had been bullied within the past 12 months on school grounds. In addition, 10.1% said they had been cyberbullied within the past 12 months.

Cyberbullying, Mr. Moody said, is bullying that takes place over digital devices.

Mr. Moody said that as part of the definition of bullying, there must be a real or perceived imbalance of power manifested. It must also involve repetition, or the likelihood of repetition.

Mr. Moody said if you see something that you think is bullying but you're not sure, you want to intervene.

Mr. Moody said there are three ways to report bullying in Prince George's county Public Schools:

- 1) Use the electronic Bullying, Harassment and Intimidation (BTI) form attached to every school's website.
- 2) Through [stopbullying.pgcps.org](http://stopbullying.pgcps.org).
- 3) Via the Apple app or Android Google Play Store app PGCPs Stop Bullying!

Mr. Moody said anyone can report suspected bullying: the victim, witnesses, parents, family member, students, teachers, anyone.

Mr. Moody said that if bullying is reported, an investigation must be opened within 48 hours.

If an incident is determined to be bullying, the targeted student and the perpetrator must be notified and provided with an intervention plan. School administrators should hold conferences and counseling for the victim, the perpetrator and bystanders.

Mr. Moody noted that October was Bullying Prevention Month.

Mr. Moody said that all schools must develop and submit a schoolwide bullying prevention plan.

Mr. Moody provided several resources for adults, including:

[www.stopbullying.gov](http://www.stopbullying.gov)

[www.pacer.org](http://www.pacer.org)

[www.violencepreventionworks.org](http://www.violencepreventionworks.org)

[www.cfchildren.org](http://www.cfchildren.org)

One attendee asked if there is anything that can be done to stop continued and escalating bullying.

Mr. Moody said that consequences for the perpetrator should align with the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook, and that the perpetrator should be having continuing counseling regarding their behavior and lack of empathy. He said the next step, if there was no resolution, would be to contact Student Services.

Mr. Moody said best practices is NOT to sit the victim down at a table with the perpetrator to come to a resolution. He said you don't want to put those two students together to do a peer mediation.

Ms. Wayland asked if there were supports for students with autism or social communication disorder, who may be victims of bullying. Mr. Moody said he would need to check.

Ms. Wayland thanked everyone for attending and sharing their experiences.

Ms. Wayland noted that there will be no meeting in December, due to the holiday. The next SECAC meeting will be held Jan. 24, 2023 via the online meeting platform Zoom. The topic will be "The Importance of Secondary Transition Planning: Preparing for life after high school".

Ms. Wayland closed the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

Participants (21)



Find a participant

- JA** Jamie Anfenson-Comeau (Me)
- Marsie Torchon (Host)
- BD** Beth Diaite (Co-host)
- YY** Yvette Young (Co-host)
- RM** Richard Moody
- Melonee Clark
- AB** Alexander Barnes
- AJ** Alyssia James
- AB** Ayo Bello
- J** Jacqueline Maxfield
- JP** janie payne
- LD** LaDonna Dingle
- NH** Nesa Herring
- PT** Pamela Talley
- RM** Rob malone
- Ronda Bullock
- Sarah Wayland (she/her)
- S** Shee
- Sylvia Taylor
- Trinell Bowman
- Yvonne Alleyne

Invite

Unmute Me

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