

SECAC Prince George's County
Meeting Minutes
1/25/22

Executive Board Members in Attendance: Troy Sampson, chair; Sarah Wayland, vice chair; Janie Payne, treasurer; Jamie Anfenson-Comeau, secretary; Ayo Bello, listserv manager Pamela Talley, community outreach manager.

Others in Attendance: See attached screen capture.

SECAC Chairman Troy Sampson opened the meeting virtually via the Zoom meeting platform at 6:33 p.m. Mr. Sampson introduced the executive board members and school system partners.

Trinell Bowman, associate superintendent of the PGCPS Department of Special Education, provided an update on the special education department. She noted that the virtual academy program will end on Jan. 28.

Dr. Bowman said the school system has updated its COVID protocols in alignment with updated guidelines from the CDC. She said that state testing expanded during the period when all students were in school virtually.

She said that parents and community members can assist the special education department by recognizing that school teams are doing everything they can, and that this has been an unprecedented school year that continues to present challenges.

Dr. Bowman said they can also help by getting word out in regards to recruitment. There is a need for substitute teachers, and speech and language pathologists.

She also said parents can help by giving permission for their child to be randomly tested, and can partner and communicate with the school team.

Dr. Bowman said the school system is holding a number of vaccination clinics.

Mr. Sampson presented a question posted in the chat: Nonpublic schools may not have the same testing standards as PGCPS; what can be done?

Dr. Bowman replied that testing kits are being provided to nonpublic schools, and that they are in discussion with the schools regarding COVID safety. Bowman offered to set up a meeting with the nonpublic supervisor and that she will follow up.

Dr. Traci Jones, health services supervisor, said the information regarding COVID is ever-changing and ever-evolving.

Dr. Jones said all persons who test positive for COVID or have symptoms of COVID must isolate for at least five days, regardless of vaccination status. They may return on Day 6 if they have no symptoms for at least 24 hours and a negative test. She said they may not do exercising or sports or other activities deemed high risk from Day 6 to Day 10. Individuals unable to wear a mask correctly must isolate for 10 days, she said.

Dr. Jones said that individuals who have been exposed to someone with a positive COVID case who have been recently fully vaccinated or received their booster shot do not need to isolate if they do not show symptoms, but must still test on Day 5, and stay home for five days if they test positive.

Dr. Jones said that family members of someone who has tested positive and cannot quarantine from other family members, must themselves begin quarantine on Day 5 of their family member's quarantine.

Michelle Tucker, instructional supervisor, Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services, shared five tips for students with disabilities undergoing school transitions:

1. Developmental Markers
2. Strengths and Areas of Improvement
3. Supports That Help
4. Location and Resources
5. Practice and Model

Ms. Tucker recommended letting students, even young ones, attend their IEP meetings, and participate for at least a portion of the meeting.

Ms. Tucker also recommended services for adults with disabilities, saying, that being an adult does not mean that one no longer needs support.

Mr. Sampson said that his son, who recently graduated, took part in a workforce development center in a six-week program. He said his son began connecting with DORS at age 14.

Mr. Sampson said the biggest takeaway he has learned is to apply for everything.

During the open question phase, one parent said they heard that PGCPSS is not testing or evaluating students with disabilities due to COVID.

Dr. Bowman said that testing has resumed. She said there are about 700 overdue assessments to be completed, which is down from the previous 1,200 overdue assessments. She said the school system is contracting with other organizations to assist with the evaluation process.

Another parent said that SSI has grants to assist parents in applying for the program.

Another attendee discussed a personal matter involving student suspensions and assessments.

Dr. Bowman said she would follow up on the situation, and has sent reminders to principals on policies and procedures.

Mr. Sampson said there appears to be a disconnect between principals and staff in schools and the special education department, particularly in regards to IEPs not being implemented.

Dr. Bowman said she does follow up regularly, and that there are structures in place, but that principal turnover has been an issue. She said she gives principals the resources and the tools to understand what the school system's expectations are in regards to special education processes.

A parent of two students, one with dyslexia, said she is grateful that SECAC exists.

Mr. Sampson said SECAC exists to help parents, and that it is never too late to learn on this journey.


























































An attendee asked, with the increased use of technology due to the pandemic, why it wouldn't be possible to send out invitations to SECAC to all parents of students with an IEP.














Pamela Talley, SECAC community outreach manager, said that there is a lack of communication from the top down when it comes to the dissemination of information.

Mr. Sampson thanked the speakers and attendees. He said that knowledge is power, but it's not power if you don't use it.

Mr. Sampson noted that the next meeting is being held virtually on Feb. 22 at 6:30 p.m. The topic will be how to get students off technology devices.

Mr. Sampson thanked attendees again and closed the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

-  Sarah Wayland (me)  
-  Marsie Torchon (Host)  
-  Michelle Tucker (Co-host)    
-  bD beth DIAITE (Co-host)   
-  Y Yvette Young (Co-host)  
-  Alyssia James  
-  Andria Thomas  
-  AB Ayo Bello  
-  christy Hammett  
-  JA Jamie Anfenson-Comeau  
-  JP Janie Payne  
-  KA Karen Andrews  
-  LD LaDonna Dingle  
-  LW Loren Williams  
-  ND Nicole Davis  
-  PT Pamela Talley  
-  Ronda Bullock  
-  Sarah Byrne  

-  TA Tamara Arrington  
-  Tanisha Wooten  
-  TB Trinell Bowman  
-  Troy Sampson  
-  VW Valerie Williams 