

Prince George's SECAC meeting minutes 10/24/23

Executive Board members in attendance: Janie Payne, chairwoman; Jamie Anfenson-Comeau, vice chairman; Jen Gaegler, outreach committee member.

Others in attendance: See attached screen capture.

Chairwoman Janie Payne opened the meeting virtually via the Zoom online meeting platform at 6:34 p.m.

Ms. Payne introduced the executive board members and invited attendees to apply for the open outreach committee chair position. Ms. Payne introduced Prince George's County Public Schools partners. Ms. Ms. Payne discussed the outline of the agenda of the night's meeting.

Ms. Payne introduced PGCPs Associate Superintendent, Dept. of Special Education Trinell Bowman. Dr. Bowman gave a shout out to elected District 3 School Board Member Pamela Boozer-Strother, who was in attendance.

Dr. Bowman urged everyone to take the Hanover Research school climate survey when it becomes available.

Dr. Bowman noted that the fall mini-conference will be held Thursday, Nov. 2, and Dr. Joyce Cooper-Kahn, clinical psychologist, will speak about dyslexia.

Dr. Bowman said the Behavioral Changes Support Group will meet on Oct. 26 and Nov. 30, and the IEP Backpack Series will meet on Nov. 9 and Nov. 24.

Dr. Bowman said the Parent Empowerment Conference will take place from March 16-April 20, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Autism Summit will be held April 20.

Dr. Bowman said the Maryland Special Education Parent Survey will be released sometime in 2024.

Ms. Payne said that she has been dealing with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) for 10 years, and is finding there is still more to learn from experts. She introduced the first speaker, Marlo Denise Lemon, co-deputy director of training and strategic partnerships for Parents Place of Maryland.

Ms. Lemon said that changes are made to the IEP document every July.

Ms. Lemon said that Parent's Place of Maryland's mission is to empower parents and families as advocates and partners in improving the education and health outcomes for children with disabilities. Parent's Place of Maryland is a nonprofit organization established in 1990.

Ms. Lemon said Parent's Place of Maryland provides 1 on 1 assistance, resource sharing, topical trainings, leadership trainings and military outreach.

Ms. Lemon provided a brief history lesson on special education laws and discussed the difference between Section 504 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Ms. Lemon discussed the required components of an IEP.

Ms. Lemon discussed the importance of taking into account the present levels of academic achievement and functional performance when crafting the IEP.

Ms. Lemon discussed developing a vision plan for a child before the IEP meeting.

Ms. Lemon discussed the importance of having the child attend their own IEP meeting as they get older.

Ms. Lemon shared tips and key advocacy questions to use during and after the IEP meeting.

Ms. Lemon can be reached at [marlo@ppmd.org](mailto:marlo@ppmd.org).

Ms. Payne introduced the next speaker, Marsie Torchon, program coordinator, family engagement, PGCPs.

Ms. Torchon discussed the process for resolving IEP disagreements within PGCPs.

Ms. Torchon said the Family Support Center (FSC) is the first level for resolving concerns. The FSC can help answer questions, provide resources, attend IEP meetings with parents and facilitate communication between parents and the rest of the IEP team.

Should mediation be required, the FSC can help connect families with an employee from the Office of Administrative Hearings, who will mediate at no cost to families or the school system. These mediators can be utilized at any time, are voluntary, and can include matters prior to going to due process, Ms. Torchon said.

If an individual or organization believes PGCPs has violated the law or regulations, they may file a complaint with the state board of education, Ms. Torchon said.



The Parental Rights and Maryland Procedural Safeguards is sent home with parents, Ms. Torchon said.

Ms. Payne shared a comment from the chat, which was addressed by Dr. Bowman and Ms. Torchon. Ms. Torchon gave her number to follow up.



































































Ms. Payne thanked everyone for attending the meeting and thanked all of the presenters and attendees.

Ms. Payne noted that the next meeting will be held on Nov. 28 at 6:30 p.m. The topic will be Bullying Harassment and Intimidation in Schools – Preparing for Transition and Nurturing Self Advocacy.

Ms. Payne closed the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Participants (22)  

Find a participant

	Jamie Anfenson-Comeau (Me)		
	Marsie Torchon (Host)		
	Marlo Lemon (Co-host)		
	Angela Salmeron (Co-host)		
	Zuleika Dudley-Birruete (Interpreter)		
	Andria Thomas		
	Cheryl Rothwell		
	Debra Gasrris		
	Dorcas Kiptekut		
	edith Linares (Interpreter)		
	janie payne		
	Jen Gaegler		
	Lakisha Thelusma		
	meeeka caldwell		
	Nicole West		
	Pamela Boozer-Strother		
	Pamela Boozer-Strother		
	Ronda Bullock		
	Stephanie Wynn		
	Tanisha Paulding		
	Tosheka Leslie		
	Trinell Bowman		
	Vanessa Ridgeway	