SECAC Meeting May 21, 2024

Executive Board Members in Attendance: Janie Payne, chairperson; Jamie Anfenson-Comeau, vice chairperson; Jennifer Gaegler, outreach committee/treasurer-elect.

Others in Attendance: See Attached Screen Capture.

Chairwoman Janie Payne opened the meeting virtually at approximately 6:30 p.m. via the Zoom online meeting platform.

Ms. Payne welcomed attendees to the meeting.

Trinell Bowman, Associate Superintendent, Department of Special Education, provided an update from the Special Education Department.

Ms. Payne introduced Jen Gaegler, SECAC treasurer-elect. Ms. Gaegler spoke about the difficulties individuals with disabilities have in finding employment.

Ms. Gaegler introduced the evening's panelists:

- Melissa Hamilton, employment consultant, Autism Society of Maryland
- William Brownlee, business services representative/staffing specialist, Maryland State Department of Education
- Jody Tick, executive director, Sunflower Bakery (a workforce developer for individuals with disabilities)

Ms. Gaegler served as moderator and led a panel discussion with the panelists.

The panelists took questions from attendees.

Panelists provided their contact information.

Ms. Gaegler said she hopes families know that there is a lot of support in the community to help young adults begin their employment journey.

Ms. Gaegler thanked the panelists for speaking at the SECAC meeting.

Ms. Payne echoed Ms. Gaegler's comments and thanked everyone for attending.

Ms. Payne wished everyone a safe and healthy summer.

Ms. Payne said SECAC will be reaching out to parents about topics for next year.

Ms. Payne closed the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

