

Prince George's County SECAC meeting, 2/28/23

Executive Board Members in Attendance: Troy Sampson, chairman; Sarah Wayland, vice chairwoman; Jamie Anfenson-Comeau, secretary; Pamela Talley, community outreach manager.

Others in Attendance: See Attached Screen Capture.

Board Chairman Troy Sampson opened the meeting virtually at 6:30 p.m. via the Zoom online meeting platform.

Marsie Torchon, Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) program coordinator, family engagement, gave a series of updates from the special education department.

Ms. Torchon said the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) 2023 Parent Survey has now been sent out, and asked that everyone fill it out. It contains 24 questions and takes approximately 15-20 minutes to complete.

It can also be found online at <https://www.mdparentsurvey.com>.

Ms. Torchon said the information is used to drive progress toward improvement, and is used to develop workshops and trainings. The school system uses it to identify areas of need and address areas of engagement.

The Parent Empowerment Conference will begin on March 18 with a keynote event from 10 to noon via Zoom. The speaker is Paula Moraine, and the topic is "Helping Students Take Control of Everyday Executive Functions."

The Autism Summit will take place in person at the John Carroll Building, at 1400 Nalley Terrace in Landover, on April 15 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The featured speaker will be Gabrielle Czaja, physical therapist.

Third Quarter mid-quarter progress reports will be available March 3.

The Special Education College and Career Fair will be held on April 12 from 6-8 p.m. at Fairmont Heights High School.

The Transitioning Youth Fair will be held on April 25 from 6-8 p.m. at Largo High School.

Mr. Sampson introduced the first guest speaker, Melonee Clark, Ready@21 project director and education and community engagement manager for The Arc of Prince George's County.

Ms. Clark said The Arc provides a number of programs for children with disabilities, including the case management for the Infants and Toddlers program, The Arc Childcare Program and case management for the Maryland Autism Waiver.

Ms. Clark said many people do not sign up for the waiver because of the wait list, but you never know when they may decide to reduce the wait list, or take families off the wait list.

For older children, Ms. Clark said there are a number of youth services and supports, including the Ready@21 and Project Search pre-employment training services, Benefits Enrollment Services, Screen, Educate and Application Assistances, Supports Thru Advocacy Resources (STAR), Resource Navigation Supports, Families Involved In Transitions (FIIT) and Transitioning Youth Planning.

Ms. Clark said there are a number of Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) programs available for individuals ages 21 and over, including Bridges Programs, Day Programs, Employment Services and Community Supports.

Mr. Sampson introduced the next speaker, Sandra Kellstrom, training and resource coordinator, program access, Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission (M-NCCPC) special programs division, disability services.

Ms. Kellstrom said it is necessary to set up a Parks Direct account to register for any M-NCCPC programs. When setting up the account, individuals will be asked if they need supports, and if so, what kinds of supports. If supports are only needed for certain activities, that can be specified.

Ms. Kellstrom said that there are a variety of programs and camps.

Corey Smith, M-NCCPC inclusion coordinator, said that the 5K Glow Walk/Run for autism will take place April 15 in Upper Marlboro. Registration is limited to the first 400 people.

Mr. Sampson introduced the final speaker, Dr. Abila Tazanu, pediatrician and mother of children with autism, as well as director of Spectrum of Hope Health, Wellness and Community Services.

Dr. Tazanu noted that 1 in 44 children are now being identified with autism.

Dr. Tazanu discussed the steps involved, including identification and consultation, developing a vision, and choosing supports and services.

The phone number for Spectrum of Hope is 301-375-0940

Board vice chairwoman Sarah Wayland provided a legislative update on a number of special education related bills, including a bill to increase pay for caretakers, a bill to shift the burden of proof (and costs) when parents disagree with their school team, a bill to

expand access to behavioral health, a bill to pay teachers in nonpublic schools equivalent to teachers in public schools and a bill to extend school services to special education youth to age 22.

More information on legislation can be found at  
<http://www.thearcmd.org/policy/annapolis-insider/>


















































Mr. Sampson said the next meeting will be on March 21, as part of the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Parent Engagement Conference Session. The topic will be Technology Support and Communication. Ms. Wayland said the speaker will be Joan Green, who will talk about the use of assistive technology in special education; executive functioning tools, communication and learning tools, free and mostly free tools.

Mr. Sampson thanked board members, school partners, speakers and attendees for attending the meeting.

Mr. Sampson closed the meeting at 8 p.m.

Participants (31)
































Find a participant

JA	Jamie Anfenson-Comeau (Me)	 
	Marsie Torchon (Host)	  
ZD	Zuleika Dudl... (Co-host, interpreter) <small>ES</small>	  
KA	Karen Andrews (Co-host)	  
YY	Yvette Young (Co-host)	  
	Melonee Clark	 
SK	Sandra Kellstrom	 
AT	Abila Tazanu	 
AG	Aisha Gaines	 
CH	Christy Hammett	 
CS	Corey Smith	 
	Crystal Clark	 
IW	Irin Wills-Allen	 
JL	Janie Lareece Payne	 
JT	Joni Turner	 
KF	Kari Fisher	 
KW	Kimberly William	 
LG	L G	 
LT	Liliana Tello	 
LW	Lisa Willson	 
MB	Mary Bowie	 

Invite

Unmute Me

Merge to Meeting Window

	Mary Bowie		
	Pamela Talley		
	rahnesha		
	Richenda Hobbs		
	Robin Parker		
	Sarah Wayland		
	Tanisha Wooten		
	Tiffany Hemans		
	Tiffany House		
	TjaMeika Purnell		
	Troy Sampson	