

## Prince George's County SECAC meeting 5/25/21

Executive board members in attendance: Troy Sampson, chairman; Sarah Wayland, vice chairwoman; Janie Payne, treasurer; Jamie Anfenson-Comeau, secretary; Pamela Talley, community outreach manager; Ayo Bello, listserv manager.

Others in attendance: See attached screen capture.

SECAC Chairman Troy Sampson opened the meeting virtually via the Zoom meeting platform at 6:39 p.m., following technical issues. Mr. Sampson noted that this is the last meeting of the 2020-2021 school year.

Mr. Sampson introduced the executive board members in attendance, as well as the Prince George's County Public Schools partners and school board representative Pamela Boozer-Strother.

Mr. Sampson said that elections will be held at the end of the meeting.

Trinell Bowman, PGCPs associate superintendent, department of special education, said that the department has been providing training for principals and non-public partners. The school system has also received funding for providing compensatory services due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Bowman said the department will be continuing the process of evaluations and assessments during the summer. She said that they are hoping to be caught up on assessments within 6 months.

Dr. Bowman introduced the month's topic, disproportionality and equity in suspensions and expulsions, current data and the PGCPs strategic plan.

Dr. Bowman said that Monica Goldson, PGCPs CEO, is dedicated to striking a balance between love and discipline.

Dr. Bowman said that under The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Maryland, the school system is disproportionate in relation to students with disabilities. She said that a ratio of 2.0 or greater is considered disproportionate, and that PGCPs was around 4.0 until the 2017-2018 school year.

Dr. Bowman said that currently, PGCPs is disproportionate for African American students with disabilities being suspended for 10 or less days. The current disproportionate suspension rate is 2.78. She said that four years ago, PGCPs was at 4.26 for suspensions of more than 10 days.

Dr. Bowman said PGCPs has taken a number of approaches to address disproportionate assessments. One way is through changes in response levels, resulting in fewer offenses that lead to suspension. Dr. Bowman said that the change in response levels has

decreased the number of suspensions. She said the changes were first instituted in the 2019-2020 school year, and as a result, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the implementation.

Dr. Bowman said that general education students as well as special education students are provided with Behavioral Intervention Plans as needed.

Edwin Saunders, assistant supervisor, department of special education, said that the school system continues to be disproportionate, although it has made significant progress and has reduced the number of egregious disciplinary actions significantly, through restorative approaches and interventions.

Mr. Saunders said the intent is to build community within the classroom and the school, which causes students to think twice about committing harm, and to find ways to repair that harm when it happens.

Mr. Saunders said that the school system has implemented the ReThink Ed Social-Emotional Learning Curriculum, a research-based intervention to improve social-emotional competencies at 38 schools.

Mr. Saunders said they have provided the 38 schools with crisis intervention resource teachers (CIRTs), social workers and psychologists to address social-emotional needs.

Mr. Saunders said they have been holding monthly suspension monitoring meetings facilitated by a Pupil Personnel Worker to review monthly suspension reports and address specific cases at targeted schools.

Mr. Saunders said they have seen a very positive reduction of the risk ratio, which is promising.

Mr. Saunders said he supports teaching social-emotional learning and using restorative circles.

SECAC vice chairwoman Sarah Wayland said she really believes in asking the child in what is going on, because often they have more understanding than the adults.

Dr. Bowman agreed, saying that having the student at the center, and having their feedback, is most important.

One parent in attendance said that her son is transitioning from nonpublic to Friendly High School, but the transition has been difficult. She asked what can be done to make that transition easier.

Dr. Bowman suggested having frequent IEP meetings, and noted that part of the PGCPs strategic plan is to reduce the number of nonpublic placements by improving services

provided in PGCPs for students who might otherwise be served by nonpublic placements. She said they have ramped up services for twice exceptional students.

Community outreach manager Pamela Talley said she is glad that we are having these discussions about disproportionality, noting that she is part of the state advisory committee. She said that when Dr. Goldson came onboard, we started having these conversations, and tweaking the approach to disproportionality and continue to have these conversations, and that progress has definitely been made.

Scott Showalter, mental health coordinator with the Youth First Care Program, discussed physical, psychological, spiritual, emotional and workplace self care.

Mr. Showalter said that they can help students develop self-care plans even before intervention plans are needed.

Mr. Showalter provided a list of parent triggers related to school, and solicited ways to mitigate those triggers or make them less triggering.

Mr. Sampson put forth the SECAC elections as nominations.

Ms. Wayland nominated Mr. Sampson for chair, which Janie Payne seconded.

Jamie Anfenson-Comeau nominated Sarah Wayland for vice chair, which Ms. Payne seconded.

Ms. Wayland nominated Ms. Payne for treasurer, which Mr. Sampson seconded.

Ms. Wayland nominated Mr. Anfenson-Comeau for secretary, which Ms. Payne seconded.

There were no other nominations. Mr. Sampson closed the floor to nominations at 8:10 p.m.

Mr. Sampson thanked the speakers, and said that hopefully there will be no further technical difficulties at future meetings.

Mr. Sampson thanked the current executive board members for continuing to serve and said the board will start planning for next year, and that hopefully everyone will be able to return to school buildings next year.
























































Mr. Sampson thanked everyone for attending, and wished them a great and safe summer.

School board member Pamela Boozer-Strother thanked everyone for a successful year of information and great topics. She said she will continue outreach to her fellow board members and is looking forward to a full return to school.

Mr. Sampson urged everyone to continue practicing social distancing and to have a great, safe summer.

Participants (22)

Find a participant

JA	Jamie Anfenson-Comeau (Me)	 
YY	Yvette Young (Host)	  
	Karen Andrews (Co-host)	   
ES	Edwin Saunders (Co-host)	  
	Marsie Torchon (Co-host)	  
SS	Scott Showalter (Co-host)	  
AB	Ayo Bello	 
	Janie Payne	 
JS	Jennifer Sweetman	 
JS	Jennifer Sweetman	 
LD	LaDonna Dingle	 
LW	LaTonya Ward	 
PB	Pamela Boozer-Strother	 
PT	Pamela Talley	 
P	Paris Gasque	 
SM	Sandi Morton	 
	Sarah Wayland	 
TA	Tamara Arrington	 
TH	Terry Hampton	 
TH	Tiffany Hemans	 
TB	Trinell Bowman	 
	Troy Sampson	 

Invite

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