

SECAC-PG

May 2025 Town Hall

Attendees

Sarah Wayland, Engtei Sailo, Funmi Ade, CHERYL ROTHWELL, Fabiola Rodríguez, Crystal Walker, Edith Martinez, Timothy Hipps, Terry Hampton, Alexandria Staten, Melissa Benson, Jacqueline Artis, Latoya Tardy, Wesley McBride, María Torres, Audrey King, Adrian Moore, Jennifer Booth, Rob Malone, Kijja Miller, Alicia Baines, Brey Harrison, Nicole Greenfield, Tamika Brown, David Manning, Renee Spriggs, Morgan Grabisch, Tamesha Hawkins, Kia Williams, Nicole Royster, Maricel Vilorio, Denise Daniels, Lauren Void, Vosti Phelps, Montessa Lee, Kelsey Rice, Lakeiya Cherry, Nicole Greene, Nakia Espinal, Tanisha Wooten, Ana Gutierrez, Selina Brodie, Andria Thomas, Jeannine Clemmons, Ayanna Baccus, Erin Williams, DeWuan Booker, Patricia Blake, Kathleen Costello, Ebony Powell, Ola Famodun, Terri Colter, Mary Estera, Ogo Ekwueme, Katrina Dunlap, Erika Stevenson, Ed Jones, Michelle Blakey, James Webb, Hughes Family, Glenda Reyes-Montanez, Crystal Clark, Tasha James, Angela Watson, Michelle Wildman, Kiristin Reid, Erica Selle, Michael Menendez, YESSANIA VIGIL, Paris Williams, Sherrena Harrison, Janie Payne, Jamie Anfenson-Comeau, Lisa Wilson, Jemal Said, Adetayo O, Lindsay Vogelsang, Gwendolyn Baccus, G. Tensae Tzadu, Delia Reese, Trinell Bowman, ANGELA SALMERON, Estarte McKinney, Yoanny Garrido, Lesa Jourden, Yvette Tchanko, Sharon Griffin, Sherifat Bukoye, ASL Interpreter Melissa, Damaris Marchante, Sabrina d'Almeida, Fayola Felix-Gunn, Elsa Monge, Antoinette Barber, Raed Taher, Brittany Harris, Ty Booker, Cecilia Nsiah, Lavinia Gass-Johnson, Lynn Frasier, Keisha Spangler, María Alvarado, Tiffanie Horsley, Oluwasinmidele Akinbulumo, Christal's Notetaker (Otter.ai), Ronke Adewuyi, Johnyia King, N'tuma Kamara, Meron Abbai, LOUSHANA HOPKINS, Jocelyn Harris, Marsie Torchon, Nikki de Almeida, Aimee Jackson, Yvette Young, Heather Bethea, Keenny (Interpreter), Alicia Leggett, Jennifer Wessel, Angela Boyd, Chante Sawyers, Rosanne Herbert, Maurice Brown, Theresa Smith, Gina Moten, Karen Beasley, Digna Miranda, James Hadley, B Valentine, Barbara Dellinger, ASL Interpreter, Cecily Nelson, Janice Cornish, Pamela Boozer-Strother, Joni Turner, Kwame Gyamfi, Latrice Williams, Dela Martin, Jimia Williams, Elizabeth Alemu, Isaura Velazquez, Deborah Kotei, Arif Younus, Talitha Darby, Ara Rich, Germaine Meffo, Tameka Hughes, Priscilla Tackie-Dankyi, Chicha Barnes, Shantelle Heath, Maha Ayoubi, Jeanette Henry, Carl Yengwia, Charnece Townes, Sequana Janifer, Lucia Swarray, Emma Granados, Terri Jordan, Ebon Burch, A Miller, Tiffany Mudd, Christian Onon, Kymberly Blango, MELANIE WALKER, David Rease, Takila Harris, JeNai Grant, Bernadette Jerome, Liliana Tello, Isaura Velazquez, Margarita Sanchez Perez, Victoria Townsend, JOAQUILYNN ROZARIO, Shawndre Johnson, Brittnay Barnes, Vita Berganza, Ericka Farrell, Koffi Nougloze, Angelique Mosley, Christina Parent, Irin Wills-Allen, Lori Mabry, Amanda Reinken, Oscar Corominal, Hence Family, Omobolanle Lamina, Harvey Davis, Samantha Dawson-William

Transcript

<https://otter.ai/u/J5MG-GwSYnx-NPw1wdzABQ-taTM?view=summary>

The SECAC and PGCPs May 2025 Town Hall focused on increasing parent engagement. Janie Payne introduced the agenda, highlighting the CCAP Board election results and the follow-up from the March 2025 town hall. Survey results from the March meeting showed high satisfaction with the session's relevance and facilitators. Key issues discussed included the need for better communication, training for staff on managing diverse disabilities, and addressing the shortage of speech therapists. Parents emphasized the importance of accountability, equitable treatment, and the inclusion of general education staff in special education initiatives. The meeting concluded with a commitment to address these concerns and improve family engagement. The SECAC _ PGCPs May 2025 Town Hall focused on creating SMART goals and parental involvement in educational improvements. Speaker 24 emphasized the need for tangible changes based on data review. Speaker 25 praised the effectiveness of certain schools and urged parents to keep their email updated for surveys. Speaker 5 highlighted the importance of feedback and suggested setting small goals for progress. Board member Pamela Boozer commended the high engagement and parental voice. The meeting concluded with a call for survey feedback to improve future planning and support. Contact information and resources were provided for further concerns and follow-ups.

Action Items

- [] Create a parent advisory group to review data, set goals, and identify solutions to improve family engagement.
- [] Explore increasing the presence of social workers to support family-school collaboration.
- [] Address the shortage of in-person speech therapy services and make it easier for families to access private providers.
- [] Develop a standardized process for schools to communicate the IEP survey link to all families after meetings.
- [] Provide training for school staff on cultural competency and awareness of diverse family engagement styles.

Outline

Welcome and Introduction to the Town Hall Meeting

- Speaker 1 welcomes everyone to the SECAC and PGCPs Town Hall meeting and hands over to Janie Payne, the president of the SECAC board.
- Speaker 2 acknowledges the high attendance and explains the purpose of the town hall meetings, which aim to provide a forum for parents and engage on important topics.
- The agenda for the evening includes sharing the CCAP Board election results, follow-up from the March 2025 town hall meeting, and discussions on parent engagement.
- Speaker 2 introduces the new board officers for the 2025-2026 year, including Janie Payne (President), Samantha Dawson Williams (Vice President), Genevieve Janai (Secretary), and Alicia Baines (Treasurer).

Recap of March 2025 Town Hall Meeting

- Speaker 1 recaps the March 2025 town hall meeting, which focused on social, emotional learning and behavioral challenges in schools.
- Survey results from the town hall are shared, showing high levels of satisfaction with the session's relevance, Zoom format, date and time, and facilitators.
- Suggestions for future topics include strategies for de-escalation, staff counter-narratives for bias, universal accommodations, and training to help parents avoid absenteeism.
- Positive feedback from survey respondents includes looking forward to summer break, meeting end-of-year standards, and having free time to relax and spend with family.

Special Education Town Hall Data

- Speaker 1 provides summary data from the special education town hall, including 128 registrations and 75 attendees.
- 16 questions were received during the town hall, with 15 answered and one requiring direct follow-up.
- Seven recommendations were provided to PGCPs, which will be compared to questions from other town halls and addressed in the coming months.
- A written FAQ is available on the PGCPs website for further information.

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPs) Updates

- Speaker 3, Trinell Bowman, Associate Superintendent, provides updates on the recommendations from the April 2024 parent advocacy meeting.
- Ongoing initiatives include extracurricular activities and leadership opportunities for students with disabilities, and town hall meetings to address parent concerns.
- Professional learning training has been increased, with more daytime trainings for special educators and general educators.
- The inaugural special education institute was well-received, with over 300 attendees, including principals, support staff, families, and teachers.

Problem of Practice and Parent Engagement

- Speaker 4, David Reese, explains the problem of practice consultancy model and the focus of the evening's town hall on increasing family engagement.
- The town hall will be structured as a collaborative work session to solicit recommendations and feedback on strategies for increasing family engagement.
- Designated note-takers will compile information for a comprehensive report to be provided to PGCPs at the end of the school year.
- The importance of using titles instead of individual names and refraining from discussing specific student cases is emphasized.

Parent Engagement and Data Analysis

- Speaker 5, Yvette Young, discusses the importance of parent engagement and the data collected from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) survey.
- The survey asks questions about parent satisfaction with school facilitation of parent involvement and the provision of information on agencies and organizations.
- The response rate for the survey has historically been low, with only 4-5% of surveys returned.
- The IEP survey after IEP meetings has a 4.4% response rate, and efforts are being made to increase parent participation in these surveys.

Parent Concerns and Recommendations

- Parents express concerns about the lack of responsiveness from principals and the need for better accountability and communication.
- Recommendations include training for staff on managing children with varying disabilities, providing resources for different learning modalities, and ensuring that compensatory services are provided as required by law.
- The importance of involving general education teachers and administrators in special education initiatives is highlighted.
- The need for awareness campaigns and standardized special needs departments across the county is emphasized.

Final Reflections and Next Steps

- Speaker 4 acknowledges the frustration expressed by parents and the need to address these concerns before moving forward with recommendations.
- The importance of using all communication channels to ensure that parents are informed and engaged is reiterated.
- Speaker 5 provides final reflections on the data presented and the need for ongoing collaboration and training to improve family engagement.
- The town hall concludes with a commitment to follow up on all questions and concerns raised during the meeting.

SMART Goals and Parental Involvement

- Speaker 24 emphasizes the importance of creating SMART goals and involving parents in the process.
- Parents are encouraged to review data and make tangible changes to address low-hanging fruit issues.
- Speaker 4 acknowledges the idea and mentions reaching out to specific parents and departments.
- Speaker 25 thanks the platform and shares a personal success story of their child making the honor roll with the help of the IEP team and administrators.

Parental Feedback and Survey Importance

- Speaker 25 stresses the importance of keeping email addresses up to date to receive and respond to surveys.
- Speaker 4 asks for comments from interpreters and thanks Lauren Boyd for holding her comment.
- Speaker 5 reflects on the heavy feedback received and the need for more avenues for expression.
- Speaker 5 mentions powerful suggestions, including setting small goals, and thanks a parent for acknowledging the role of social workers.

Board Member Reflections and Engagement

- Speaker 4 gives board members a moment to address the families and emphasizes the importance of understanding diverse advocacy methods.
- Speaker 26, a board member, thanks the special education team and Dr. Reese for facilitating the session.
- Speaker 26 appreciates the high level of engagement and the increased parent voice this year.
- Speaker 4 thanks Speaker 26 for her advocacy and accountability.

Survey and Next Steps

- Speaker 1 appreciates the engagement and mentions the survey link for feedback on the town hall meeting.
- Speaker 1 encourages participants to complete the survey to help plan for the 2025-2026 school year.
- Speaker 2 thanks everyone for participating and mentions the importance of the survey in shaping the agenda for next year.
- Speaker 2 acknowledges the work of Prince George's County Public Schools representatives and thanks the co-chair, Jamie Anderson, for his service.

Contact Resolution and Final Remarks

- Speaker 3 provides information on the steps to resolve concerns and links to the contact resolution list.
- Speaker 3 reminds participants of the special toolkit and QR code for specific concerns.
- Speaker 3 acknowledges the presence of Dr. Judith White, the Chief Academic Officer, and provides the IEP parent survey link.
- Speaker 3 thanks everyone for their recommendations, questions, and feedback and wishes them a safe summer.