

# MINUTES

SECAC

April 11, 2024

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## In Attendance

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Jeanne Erdley, Suzanne Oshinsky, Colleen Sasdelli, Jamie Kelly, Rebecca Miller, Ayanna Jimenez, Shilpa Narayan, Robin Meyer, Shannon Holley, Megan Fitzgerald, Karen Jankowiak, Katie York, LoAn Fine, Stephanie Swisher, Carie Sadowski, Rachel Trovato, Angela Sittler, Tracy Masur, Shannon Clark, Sarah Walter, Sue Miller, Charles Dierbach, Tracey Robertson, Mabel Tendeku, Bryn Phillips

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## Welcome & Announcements

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1. Welcome from SECAC.
2. Upcoming Meetings: May 16, 2024 Navigating Transitions – Empowered High School Transition Planning
3. SECAC has been in the community at the HCPS ESP Resource Fair, HCPL Abingdon Accessibility Night and upcoming on Friday, April 19 at HCPS Hickory Elementary School for their Inclusion Walk
4. Upcoming Events notices from the community: Join our email list and Facebook Group.
5. Please leave comments and questions in the chat box. The chat is being monitored.

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## Colleen Sasdelli – Director of Special Education – Information Share

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1. The Harford County Executive will release information on Monday regarding the amount of money HCPS will receive for next school year.
2. HCPS Board Meeting is on Monday evening.
3. Report cards and progress reports will be available tomorrow.
4. The MSDE Parent Engagement survey will close on May 24<sup>th</sup>. All are encouraged to complete it so the school system can be guided appropriately.
5. Information from the survey is given to the district via a Statewide Parent Survey report, a District Parent Survey report, parent comments report, and a report of the methodology and analytics used by researchers.
6. The Department of Special Education uses the survey for improvement plans, family support plans, professional development and updates to the program.

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## How To Build Strong School Partnerships

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- I. IEP Meeting – Robin Meyer
  - a. Prep by reviewing and reading the invitation.

- b. During the meeting, take support person, if needed.
  - c. After the meeting, review the prior written notice and know who to contact.
- II. Preparing for Transition – Shannon Holley
- a. Consider what academic challenges are present and develop plan.
  - b. Talk to your child about their social and emotional fears and desires.
  - c. Determine their strengths and weaknesses. Begin practicing those skills they are weak with.
  - d. Consider extracurricular activities.
  - e. Plan to attend school-based transition activities during the summer.
  - f. When transitioning to middle or high school
    - i. Review/understand the IEP.
    - ii. Study the schedule changes.
    - iii. Promote self-advocacy skills (encourage self expression, promote problem solving skills, provide opportunities).
    - iv. Establish open communication.
    - v. Provide emotional support.
- III. Additional support – Megan Fitzgerald
- a. Birth to 5 years old – Missy Romano
  - b. Coordinator of Elementary – Kimberly Heeter
  - c. Coordinator of Low Incidence including Strive – Kim Manzo

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## Q&A

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- Q. My nephew s IEP meeting is in May and is transitioning to high school. Will the IEP look the same? Is there anything I should know?
- A. Check out the MSDE Parent Information series. There is a guide to secondary education.

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## Giveaway Winners

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Book giveaway: *The Art of Advocacy, A Parent's Guide to a Collaborative IEP Process* by Charmaine Thaner, M.A.

Shilpa Narayen, Ayanna Jimenez, and Charles Dierbach

Minutes taken by Kara Stone, Secretary/Treasurer