

Harford County Special Education Citizen's Advisory Committee

General Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2025

7-8:30 pm, Zoom

Attendance (20)

Carey Reise, Carie Sadowski, Colleen Sasdelli, Dannie Keith, Jeanne Beaman, Jessica Huba, Kathy Pitrat, Kim Heeter, Katie York, Kristy Gizinski, Lauren Harper, Lu Zhang, Megan Fitzgerald, Melissa Romano, Meredith Groff, Richard Mahoney, Sarah Walter, Shilpa Narayan, and Tara Clancy

The chair called the meeting to order at 7pm.

- **Welcome & Announcements**

- Chair welcomed all to meeting

- **Old Business**

- SECAC Co-Chair Elections
- Kristy Gizinski was elected co-chair by acclamation (no other candidates)

- **New Business**

- Introduction of 2025-2027 Board Members
 - Katie York, Chair
 - Kristy Gizinski, Co-Chair
 - Dannie Keith, Secretary and Treasurer
 - Each member introduced themselves and spoke about their background and their vision for their time at SECAC

- **Speaker/Presenter(s)**

- Colleen Sasdelli, HCPS Director of Special Education
 - Provided an overview of HCPS SE department

- Maryland identified more students with disabilities in last decade (15,002/14%)
 - Outpacing overall enrollment growth (2%) in Maryland
 - Number of students in HCPS SE is growing (+15% since 2021-2022)
 - HCPS has grown -0.4% since 2021-2022
 - HCPS total staff has grown only 8.5% since 2021-2022
 - +16% ESPs; +1% Teachers; 47% Conditional Teachers
- Megan Fitzgerald, Family Support Coordinator, Partners for Success (HCPS)
 - “Back To School”
 - Provided suggestions for checking in with ourselves and our students
 - Shared example “About Me” student summaries to share with instructors/providers
 - Suggestion: the first part of the school year should just be focused on school and routine, no added activities if possible (“Eat, Sleep, Listen, and Learn”)

The meeting was adjourned by chair at 8:33 pm.

Reminders

Next SECAC Meeting: October 9, 2025 on Zoom

[Click to Register Here](#)

Next HCPS Board of Education Meeting: September 22, 2025, In Person (Bel Air)

Schedule, Live Stream, and Archive: www.hcps.org/boe/MeetingSchedule

Minutes Compiled By: Katie York, Chair and Dannie Keith, Sec/Tres