

CACSE Minutes  
Tuesday, November 12, 2024 @ 6:30 pm – 8:21 pm  
St. Mary's County Public Schools

1. Attendance & Introductions: Keri Johnston – Margaret Brent Middle School rep; Heidi Pucheu - Chopticon High School rep; Brandy Powell - CACSE Chair and Chesapeake Charter School rep; Ashley Moorhouse – Vice Chair and Special Projects, Spring Ridge Middle School rep; Crystal Di Domenico -membership chair; Robyn Roberts – Partners for Success; Mary Ann Tomasic – VA career advisor; Leslie Popielarcheck – MD Turner Syndrome Society; Arnika Eskeland - Decoding Dyslexia; LaShonda Scott; Jennifer Hills – Leonardtown High School rep; Amanda Michie – Hollywood Elementary School rep; Ashley O’Neil – Green Holly Elementary School rep; and Audrey Ellis - Director of Special Education, SMCPS.
2. Review & Approve Minutes
  - a. 10/14/24 minutes reviewed and approved
3. Director of Special Education Report
  - a. IEP chairs participated in a two-day training session in which they reviewed suggestive protocols, introducing norms, setting open agendas, and establishing each person’s role in meetings. Will continue training once per month going forward.
  - b. November SMCPS Special Education Newsletter, Voyages sent out. Plan to share it on social media more. Any ideas and or suggestions welcomed.
  - c. MSDE waiver for alternate assessment for students – US department of education set target for 1% for alternates.
  - d. Frank Krause visits with new teachers Kaleidoscopes of Students and All About Words; inner voices – teach kids to manage and be aware of inner self talk; conscious discipline.
  - e. Report cards recently distributed.
4. Announcements
  - a. Peer to Peer Parent Support Group – 7 parents at this month’s session
  - b. Partners for Success – upcoming classes, classes held at Tech Center 6-8 pm (unless otherwise stated)
    - i. 11/14 Wonder Words by Frank Kaus -Choosing language and Being Mindful
    - ii. 1/9 Two Part mini-IEP class + 1/15 2<sup>nd</sup> class
    - iii. 2/12 Unraveling Dyslexia by Dr. Kristin Sayeski
    - iv. 3/5 Estate Planning by Joann Woods
      1. Guardianship presentation separate by another attorney
      2. Class at Board of Education building
    - v. 3/13 Pathfinders Autism 101
    - vi. Classes still in the works:
      1. Transition class
      2. All About Me class – Heidi Pucheu and Arnika Eskeland plan to run this class
5. Action Items
  - a. Audit Interview with MSDE, 1 hour long discussing CACSE .

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- b. Rise Up Awards – Leslie Popielarcheck began these rewards in 2013. She is looking for someone to take over, to pass the torch. Also looking for a committee to help with the process.
  - i. Selectees need to be in by April 2025.
  - ii. Awards given to anyone in SPED realm who has made an impact on child that school year in any way, nominated by parents/guardians only.
  - iii. With rise in technology need to change to only nominating 1 person and not accepting group nominations. 1 nomination per family.
  - iv. Awards presented at Staff Appreciation Night held in the spring.
  - v. **Committee to help – Ashley M, Mary Ann T, Ashley O, LaShonda S.**
- c. Sign up Genius created for Partners for Success workshops for CACSE members to help work the CACSE table.

6. Priorities/Goals 2024-2025

- a. Update RAC cards, change meeting location to zoom & add QR code for website. Place stickers over meeting location on remaining RAC cards.
  - i. 500 stickers cost \$140 approximately
  - ii. 2500 new RAC cards cost \$549 approximately
  - iii. NEED to count RAC cards we currently have – **Action Item**
- b. Meeting/Membership increase – out of 28 schools in SMCPS only 12 confirmed school reps
- c. Increase social media footprint; posted Board of Education electoral responses on Facebook, Created meeting events to be shared on Facebook, posting fliers for PFS workshops, resources on CACSE website (**ongoing project**).
- d. Update CACSE event materials – currently have 3 large signs and 1 small one, and a 6 ft table.  
**No more is needed.**

7. Next Steps

- a. Next committee meeting and Peer Support meeting will be held on Monday 12/09/24.
- b. Priorities/Goals for 2024 – 2025 fiscal school year
  - i. Mary Ann shared an idea to purchase practice tests/books needed for provisional teachers to take PRAXIS tests which are required to pass to become a SPED teacher on top of GEN ED test required.
    - 1. Could house materials in Ms. Ellis's office
    - 2. Give notice at IEP chair meetings
    - 3. Put notice in SMORES newsletter for teachers

8. Open Discussion

- a. Idea for project – purchase bikes for corollary bikes event.
  - i. Mrs. Ellis stated that Corollary has their own budget through the athletics department.
- b. CACSE materials are currently housed at PFS office as anything purchased with school budget cannot be stored on personal property and must be held on SMCPS property. CACSE does not have an official space. CACSE materials have grown tremendously and are overflowing the space allotted in PFS office.
  - i. Plan to distribute 30-50 folders to Infants & Toddlers program

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- ii. Plan to distribute folders at PFS events to help
  - iii. NEED to inventory items in storage at PFS office
  - iv. Can SMCPS provide CASCE with their own space to store their items; signs, tables, RAC cards, folders, pens, etc...
  - c. Need to find CACSE notebooks, last seen in SPED office or Red Conference Room at Board of Education Building before COVID.
  - d. Corollary bowling registration is open.
2. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 8:21pm