

CACSE Minutes - DRAFT  
Monday, Sept 9, 2024 @ 6:30 pm – 7:31 pm  
St. Mary's County Public Schools

1. Attendance & Introductions: Kristen Paul – George Washington Carver Elementary Rep and Parents Place of Maryland; Keri Johnston – Margaret Brent Middle School Rep; Heidi Pucheu - Chopticon High School Rep; Brandy Powell - CACSE Chair and Chesapeake Public Charter School Rep; Ashley Moorhouse – Vice Chair and Special Projects, Spring Ridge Middle School Rep; Crystal Di Domenico -Membership chair + Mechanicsville Elem Rep; Courtney Dagenhart -parent; Mary Ann Tomasic – Virtual Academy/ Career advisor; Robyn Roberts – Partners for Success; Arnika Eskeland - Decoding Dyslexia; Aarika - parent; LaShonda Scott - parent GMHS; Anna Morris -SPED Department Supervisor; and Audrey Ellis - Director of Special Education, SMCPS, Jodi Gardiner - MCF.
2. Review & Approve Minutes
  - a. 06/03/24 minutes Motion to approve by Heidi and second by Kristen...All in favor and Approved
3. Director of Special Education Report
  - a. Sherry O'Dell was appointed new supervisor for SPED department, housed at Great Mills High School.
  - b. Corollary sports begin in October - Cycling
    - i. Registration via website by September 13<sup>th</sup>  
<https://students.arbitersports.com/organizations/the-corollary-sports-program-saint-mary-s-county-public-schools>
  - c. Esperanza Middle School & Piney Point Elementary both had delayed school openings with smooth transitions for students.
  - d. Cell phone policy updated and being enforced, going great with little reluctance from students.
4. Announcements
  - a. Peer to Peer Parent Support Group – 9 parents at this month's session
  - b. Partners for Success – Workshops for 2024 – 2025 school year
    - i. 10/10 ADHD by Frank Kaus
      1. Heidi Pucheu will be setting up a CACSE table
    - ii. 11/14 Wonder Words - Words Matter by Frank Kaus
      1. Choosing language and being mindful
    - iii. 1/9 Two Part Mini IEP class
      1. 9<sup>th</sup> /15<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> class
    - iv. 2/12 Dyslexia
    - v. 3/5 Estate Planning by Joann Woods
      1. Guardianship presentation separate by an attorney
    - vi. 3/13 Pathfinders Autism 101
    - vii. Classes still in the works:
      1. Transition class
      2. All About Me class

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5. Action Items

- a. September SMCPS IEP chairs meeting, 9/17 to be attended by Brandy Powell - Chair & Heidi Keller Pucheu- CACSE, as well as PFS Robyn Roberts. Note\* CACSE folders for new IEP students to be distributed-5 per campus. Department Chair meeting on 10/08/24 to be attended by Brandy Powell-CACSE chair & Robyn Roberts -Partners for Success.
- b. All folders and materials ordered at the end of 2023-2024 fiscal school year have arrived and will be put together by a few members to be distributed.
- c. Priorities/Goals for 2024 – 2025 fiscal school year. Be thinking about goals
  - i. Update RAC cards/PDF version change meeting location to zoom
  - ii. Increase Peer to Peer meeting attendees, Ashley Moorhouse, vice-chair will make a shareable graphic.
  - iii. Increase social media footprint, share flyers more often
  - iv. Asked members to think about other goals and priorities for next month's meeting.
- d. Mary Ann, has a contact to present Career Blueprint Readiness, will discuss further to set a date.
- e. Wrights Law Conference to be held virtually September 24 has a few open spots left, Parents Place of Maryland has a couple scholarships available to anyone in need to help cover the cost of conference.

6. Next Steps

- a. Next committee meeting and Peer Support meeting will be held 10/14/24

7. Open Discussion

- a. Arnika suggested we Compose a list of questions related to SPED to send to school board candidates for November's election. Motion to approve by Robyn Roberts; second by Crystal Di Domenico. All in favor and approved.
  - i. Use questions from prior year on Google Drive, open to other question ideas.
- b. Kristen suggested IEP and 504 students to be invited to "VIP" or SPED open house prior to general open house times. This would be beneficial to students and teachers. Revisit topic at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

8. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn by Mary Ann Tomastic; second by Crystal Di Domenico. All in favor and approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm