

CACSE Minutes

Monday, Oct 13, 2025 @ 6:30 pm – 7:30pm

St. Mary's County Public Schools

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; Robyn Roberts – Partners for Success; Kristen Paul – GWCES; Lisa Sheehan – Evergreen ES rep; Lashonda Scott; Jodi Gardener; Samantha Joy – Hollywood ES rep; Kayla Krause – SRMS rep; Anna Mudd Morris SMCPS – SPED Supervisor; Crystal Di Domenico – member rep; Audrey Ellis – Special Education Director

1. Review & Approve Minutes

- a. 9/8/25 minutes reviewed and approved

2. Director of Special Education Report –

- a. Corollary sports have started; cycling.
- b. Temple Grandin presentation went well.
- c. Looking at root causes of conflicts.
- d. 2027 school year general budget is in the works.
- e. Continue to watch news on future impacts with budgets.
- f. MSDE meeting on Thursday Oct 16 in Ellicott City.

3. Partners For Success

- a. Registration numbers for events is up, but attendance is low.
- b. Open to ideas to further share events to encourage more involvement
 - i. Currently shared via; Peach Jar, Voyages Newsletter, CACSE website, and FB groups
 - ii. Suggestions to share; public libraries
- c. Temple Grandin presentation concluded
 - i. 5 Key Takeaways from Ms. Ellis
 - Have students take turns - this supports students by practicing their response inhibition and provides support for social interactions
 - Support their ability to make friends with shared interests
 - Engage in hands-on activities, such as building things
 - For group activities, provide students with roles
 - Be gently insistent (advice given to parents, but it can be good advice for teachers too)
- d. Upcoming Events:
 - i. 11/5 - Empowering Families to Handle Anxiety
 - ii. 11/15 - Maryland Able class at Tech Center
 - iii. 1/28 - Megan Stafford - Author of Not a Wisher by Nature at Tech Center
 - iv. 2/24 - Thinking Outside the Box
 - v. 3/17 – Transition to Adult Services
 - vi. 3/19 – Estate Planning at Board of Education boardroom

vii. 5/6 – SSI SSDI class for students turning 18 or older

4. Announcements

- a. Peer to Peer Parent Support Group - 6 parents at this month's session
- b. Membership – Out of 28 schools in Saint Mary's County, 15 schools have confirmed reps.

5. Priorities/Goals 2025-2026 School Year

- a. Project Ideas –
 - i. Use Owl technology, would allow hybrid meetings; both virtual and in person.
 - ii. Noise cancelling headphones, fidgets and weighted blankets.
 - iii. Something for parents; our by-laws state that money is for families, not just students.
 - iv. Have more speakers at meetings; Pathfinders.

6. CACSE website has ongoing updates, but at a stable build point. Thank you Kristen on your continued progress.

7. Next Steps

- a. Next committee meeting and Peer Support meeting will be held 11/10/25

8. Open Discussion

- a. Leslie Popliarcheck will not be returning to CACSE according to Heidi. Someone will need to take over RISE UP Rewards. Will reach out to those that were working with Leslie that we believe may have passed down process information.

9. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm