

Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting

January 5, 2026

Virtual Meeting Minutes

PARTICIPANTS

Jill Fradiska	Wendy Main	Carli Rice	Chris Garrity
Amy Furstenburg	Abby Rader	Tiffany Mock	Christian Cooper
Tonya Detrick-Grove	Shannon Watkins	Melissa Geatz	Christie Bazarnic
Krista Walker	Molly Stewart	Jacqueline Enright	Lisha Tignor
Jennifer Kallenborn	Janet Mickey	Danielle Emerick	Tara White
Sean Fradiska	Stephanie Vega	Tahmya Delozier	Tiffany Frazier
Lisa Platter			

I. WELCOME AND NEW EMPLOYEE INTRODUCTIONS

The regular meeting of the Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee was held on January 5, 2026. Attendance was taken, and the meeting was called to order by Jillian Fradiska (Chair), at 1:00 p.m. Dr. Main welcomed Amy

Furstenberg as a new member of Family Support Services. The mission and goals of SECAC were discussed/reviewed at this time by Jillian Fradiska (Chair). Next, the Membership Guidelines/ Meeting Norms were addressed. The agenda for the January 5th meeting was shared by Jillian Fradiska (Chair).

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and approved by all members in attendance. Motion for the approval of the September 15, 2025 minutes was made by Dr. Tonya Detrick-Grove and seconded by Tiffany Mock with unanimous approval by those present.

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT- DR. WENDY MAIN

A. Local Department Update:

Dr. Main introduced and welcomed Dr. Molly Stewart as the new Director of Secondary Education. Jacqueline Enright as the new Director of Elementary Education and Abby Rader as the Interim Supervisor for Special Education.

Dr. Main spoke about having various community agencies spotlight for upcoming SECAC meetings, with the goal of reaching out to individuals who would benefit from services for students with disabilities. Last October, the child count was 1,460 students for the 24-25 school year. This October the child count is up by 42 students for a count of 1,502 students. This represents birth to 21 students. Dr. Tonya Detrick-Grove presented information regarding the MSDE Parent Survey that will be mailed home, at this time, there is no set date for the mailings to go out. Reminders will be sent informing parents of the opportunity to complete the Parent Survey.

B. State/Federal Update:

Abby Rader, Interim Supervisor for Special Education, discussed the Improvement Plan Overview. Plans are in place to increase our child outcome summary numbers for early learning programs and birth to age four programs. School based K-12 students are working to increase the proficiency rate of students with disabilities by implementing narrowing the gap goals for students who have significant disabilities to help identify grade-level goals and below-grade-level goals. Working to increase the proficiency rate of students who take the alternative assessments. Using supplementary aids and program modifications during instruction and assessments. High school SEFs will have graduating students complete surveys regarding their future plans.

C. Dr. Main spoke in regards to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, stating that it is a three- year plan from 2024 to 2027. Pillar four incorporates more resources for all students, including strategies for using Maryland coalition, for inclusive education, to help with co-planning and co-teaching. Dr. Main stated that the Blueprint does have a special education pillar for the advisory committee, and an MSDE rep. will discuss the results of the published report at an upcoming SESAC meeting.

IV. Old Business

- A. Certificate of Program Completion Endorsements/Competencies Carli Rice, Secondary Transition Coordinator, explained the three endorsements that are available for students: post-secondary education, career and work readiness, and community and citizenship endorsement. The endorsements are presented to parents during an IEP meeting for their decision.
- B. MCIE Update Abby Rader gave the MCIE update and stated that MCIE stands for Maryland Coalition of Inclusive Education. Washington Middle School, Westmar Middle School, and Allegany High School are the three schools implementing co-planning, co- instruction, co-evaluation and co-teaching. Different models are being use by each school in order to improve instruction, increase MCAP scores, and support students that have complex or significant learning needs.
- C. SECAC survey results (Tonya Detrick-Grove). The results of the SECAC survey that was distributed from September's meeting were as follows: Survey sent to 62 members, and 15 responses were received. 26% of SECAC members attended all four meetings a year (4 total meetings), 33% participants responded had not attended a meeting in the last year. One person requested to be removed from the email list. One of the purposes of the survey was to determine/get feedback on future meeting preferences and various options that would accommodate member's schedules.

V. New Business

A. Transition Fair Updates

Carli Rice gave information regarding the upcoming transition fairs. The fair for diploma students will be held at Allegany College of Maryland in the gymnasium, date TBD. The Transition Fair for students receiving a certificate will be held on May 6th' 12:30-1:30pm in the Continuing Education building at Allegany College of Maryland.

B. ESY

Dr. Tonya Detrick-Grove gave the tentative schedule for ESY for 6/22-7/31, Monday through Thursday, location TBD. ESY is considered annually for every student that has an IEP, and it is based on the individual needs of the student. There is no cost to attend ESY, and it is intended for the maintenance of skills during summer break.

C. Agency Updates

1. Jim Stafford (Hooley Plunge/Alhambra)

Mr. Stafford was not in attendance for the meeting, so the update was given by Dr. Tonya Detrick-Grove. The Hooley Plunge will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2026, at Rocky Gap. Last year, \$34,000 was donated to Allegany County Public Schools for funding our structured learning environment classrooms and high school unified sports. If you would like to donate, the website is www.hooleyplunge.com.

VI. Public Comments

Tiffany Frazier suggested an incentive for families in attendance for the transition fairs, i.e., age-appropriate awards or gift cards to the families to get them more involved. Ms. Frazier then asked when the minutes for this meeting would be made available on the SECAC website.

VII. Announcements/Upcoming Events

Family support will be having a meeting regarding their Spring Fling. Look for their newsletter in February.

VIII. Adjournment and Next meeting dates & topics

Monday, March 9th is the tentative date for the next SECAC meeting. The motion for adjournment was made by Carli Rice and seconded by Tiffany Mock. The meeting was adjourned at 1:42 pm.