



Maryland SESAC

SPECIAL EDUCATION STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Special Education State Advisory Committee General Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2018

Attendees: Marcella Franczkowski-Assistant State Superintendent, Sheila Billups, Kathy Kaufman, Prakash Anthony, Leanna Carmona, Marjorie Guldán, Rene Averitt-Sanzone, Joyce Abbott, Neal Lichter, Valerie Ashton-Thomas, Elisa Hartman, Karleen Spitulnik, Martha Goodman, Pam Talley, Sally Farr

Guests: Rae Record, Terri Savage, Audri Levering, Karla Marty, Jeff Gladhill, Wendy Balda, Ken Huddock, Marlene Powell

WebEx: Dorie Flynn, Samantha Carter, Peaches Wilson, Miguel Reyes

Staff: Carmen Brown, Staff to SESAC

Welcome/Introductions were offered by Carmen Brown, SESAC staff, and Kathy Kaufman, SESAC Vice-Chair. Members were introduced in person and on the WebEx. Members had been informed via email previously, but were reminded, that Kelly Meissner, former SESAC Chair, has resigned her position at Parents' Place Maryland and has begun a new position as a Family Support Specialist at MSDE, DEI/SES. Kathy Kaufman, a parent and local school system employee, led a discussion related to the need for parent leadership within the SESAC, to increase membership, increase participation, and to offer guidance to Assistant State Superintendent Marcella Franczkowski and the work of the Division of Early Intervention/Special Education Services to benefit all students with special needs and their families. Kathy stated that she would remain on as an ex-officio member of the SESAC to continue to offer support, but that she, as a local school system employee, felt it was appropriate to withdraw from her leadership position on the committee, as well.

SY 2018-2019 SESAC Leadership discussion was facilitated by Carmen Brown and Kathy Kaufman. They summarized efforts throughout the summer to engage current members in leadership opportunities, outreach by Assistant State Superintendent Marcella Franczkowski asking local directors of special education for suggestions within their systems for parent leaders, and collaboration with Parents' Place Maryland and Maryland Coalition of Families to seek parent leaders within the special education community of families. Carmen Brown offered a nomination for Pamela Talley for Chair and facilitated the nominations of Leanne Carmona, also for Chair, Wendy Balda, Marjorie Guldán and Marlene as Co-Vice Chairs. The SESAC held discussions about the individuals nominated for leadership roles, the charge of the positions, and the benefits of electing multiple individuals to share the responsibilities of the positions. The SESAC voted to elect all in their nominated positions.

