



SESAC Chairs: Marjorie Guldán (Parent)
Pamela Talley (Parent)

SESAC Vice-Chairs: Sheila Billups (Parent)
Dawn Greenberg (Parent)

SESAC General Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2023

Attendees: Carmen Brown, DEI/SES & Staff to SESAC; Pam Talley, parent/Co Chair; Dawn Greenberg, parent/Co Vice Chair; Angela Sittler, parent; Neil Lichter, parent/agency; Chiara Jaffe/parent; Jade Gingrich, agency; Natalie Miller, agency; Rene Averitt-Sanzone, agency; Kristen Hoffman, agency; Diane McGowan, agency; Jessica Markum, agency

Guests: Brian Morrison, Ashley Flynn, Kelly, Meissner, Alicia Palmer, Paige Bradford, Eugene Chong-Qui, and Michele Weddle (MSDE), Roxy Umphery, Nicol Anthony, Marian Williams, Patrick Seay, Tracey Lea Coleman

Welcome/Introductions/Approval of Minutes – Carmen Brown and SESAC Co-Chair, Pam Talley welcomed the members and introductions were facilitated.

Public Comment – Carmen Brown informed the group that there were no guests in attendance who wish to provide testimony.

Legislative Update – Carmen Brown provided an update on the State budget process for special education, as well as providing information on proposed bills that will have impact on students with disabilities.

DEI/SES Focused Work

Alternate Assessment (1%) Plan Review and Summary - Paige Bradford thanked the SESAC for their comments and feedback on the draft plan and provided updates on process and progress. She explained that currently, 18 states are under the threshold of 1%. Maryland is looking at best practices and models in other states to model after and are discussing a more robust system of identification for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities and intellectual disabilities. She discussed how MSDE is supporting LEAs with coaching – both general ed and special education, technical assistance, monitoring, as well as a focused guidance on communicative competence. Jade Gingrich shared a resource – Maryland Technology Assistance Program; Pam Talley asked that parent voice be consistently reinforced with the LEAs to ensure parent involvement and integration with home and community.

Certificate of Program Completion Endorsements - Eugene Chon-Qui, MSDE thanked the SESAC for their comments and feedback on the Endorsements for the Certificate of Completion and offered extra time if SESAC needed it. The SESAC discussed the excitement over the added “meaning” the endorsements will give to students completing school with a Certificate of Program Completion, that they believe there will be value in post-secondary arenas including vocational training, employers, etc. There was discussion of pathways to further develop skills that include meaningful experiences. The group also brainstormed names for the new framework, proposing the discontinuation of the term Certificate of Program Completion.

Annual Performance Report - Brian Morrison presented an updated on the

SPDG Updates - Pam Talley, SESAC & Alicia Palmer, MSDE provided an update on the progress of SPDG, the identified LEAs and schools within each, and discussed planning for the upcoming school year.

Restraint and Seclusion - Carmen Brown, MSDE provided an update on the implementation of House Bill 1255 “Physical Restraint and Seclusion – Limitations, Reporting, and Training” (Education Article § 7-1101 et seq) which



Mohammed Choudhury
State Superintendent of Schools

amended and expanded the law governing the use of restraint and seclusion in public schools, public agencies, and publicly funded nonpublic schools in 2022. Carmen shared processes and discussed training for LEAs and nonpublic schools, as well as oversight of data and annual data reporting. Carmen shared a link to the [webpage](#) for further reference.

MOIEP Workgroup JHU/CTE provided updates on the July 1, 2023 planned edits to the MOIEP forms.

2022 Graduation rates (including data for 5-year cohort) and attendance rates - Review Board Presentation ([link shared](#))