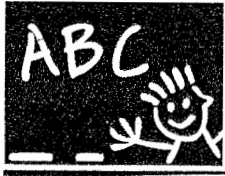


# BALTIMORE COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE



*Jasmine Shriver, Chair (410) 825-9570*

*Carl Bailey, Vice Chair (410) 335-9597*

*Jacob Lupo, Secretary (410) 887-3594*

**Monday, November 8, 2004**

## **BCPS/Greenwood Campus/ESS Building**

The Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) meeting was called to order at 7:04PM. Approximately 27 participants were in attendance. In addition to parents, community representatives, central area staff personnel, and Executive Directors, the principal from Sudbrook Magnet Middle attended the meeting.

Jasmine Shriver, SECAC Chair, welcomed all to the meeting.

### **STATE SECAC REGULATIONS**

The meeting was turned over to Ms. Kelli Nelson, former Chairperson of The Baltimore County Citizens Advisory Committee. Ms. Nelson discussed new state regulations, which mandate that each county must form a Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC). Baltimore County's CAC was used as a model for this. Each jurisdiction receives federal funding for their SECAC. Ms. Nelson recommended that Baltimore County Citizens Advisory Committee for Special Education (BC CACSE) amend its name to Baltimore County Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (BC SECAC) in order to be in compliance with state regulations. The name change would not change the nature of the committee's work. The committee was also informed that it would need to develop a budget for the \$2500.00 received from the state. This money may be used for mailings, conferences and refreshments during meetings.

### **ASSESSMENT INTERVENTION MODEL (AIM)**

Ms. Judy Glass, Director, Office of Special Education introduced Ms. Jane Lichter, Coordinator, Department of Elementary Programs, Offices of Early Childhood Programs and Elementary Reading/Language Arts, to discuss the Assessment Intervention Model, or AIM, a collaborative effort between the Office of Special Education and the Offices of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Ms. Lichter introduced AIM's role in elementary programs. She announced that all schools made AYP, including the special education category. The AIM is designed to ensure that the Baltimore County Public School System is meeting the needs of all readers. AIM began as "Reading First," and is being modeled along with BCPS in 8 other school systems as part of the Reading First Grant. BCPS currently has 33 schools participating, five through the Reading First Grant project and 28 as AIM models, initiated by the BCPS.

The purpose of AIM is to find at risk children at the youngest possible age and to ensure that more children are reading at grade level by the completion of second grade. Students will be screened via the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Literacy Skills (DIBELS). While the AIM was designed as an intervention program, it has been adapted to grades 3, 4 and 5 to accelerate children who have fallen behind during its implementation phase. The AIM model is being tested on Title I schools, but eventually may be spread county-wide. It should be noted that time will be needed to develop a fully comprehensive program.

For more information pertaining to Reading First and the Assessment and Intervention Model or DIBELS, please refer to Ms. Lichter's handout from the November 8, 2004 meeting. For additional copies, contact Jacob Lupo at 410-887-3594 or Ms. Judy Glass, on behalf of the Department of Special Education, thanked Ms. Lichter for her department's partnership and all of their wonderful work.

Following Ms. Lichter's presentation, Ms. Gwen Grant, Executive Director, Office of Secondary Programs, presented

information concerning reading programs in secondary schools. Ms. Grant explained that previously there were secondary reading programs, however, this year every Baltimore County middle school is implementing the Scott Foresman Program, which is aligned with the Voluntary State Curriculum (VSC). A GT strand is being developed to supplement the existing program. In order to best serve students who are identified with a low level of reading, every Baltimore County middle school is implementing a Fast Track/Reading Acceleration/Intervention program. It was reported that most schools are implementing the program daily or every other day.

Ms. Kelli Nelson, former SECAC Chair, asked if reading comprehension data can be pulled. She stated her concern that a student may be a good reader who can decode, but does not necessarily comprehend. Ms. Grant stated that the Foresman Series places a strong emphasis on comprehension.

Another individual posed a question concerning if the Scott Foresman Program is available for Alt-MSA (non-diploma bound) students. Representatives from the Department of Special Education explained that all students must be exposed to grade level VSC. Ms. Glass suggested that Sara Egorin-Hooper, Specialist/Autism Lifeskills, Office of Support Services, might be contacted to present further information concerning Alt-MSA and reading programs aligned with VSC.

For more information concerning secondary reading programs, please refer Ms. Grant's handout from the November 8, 2004 meeting. For additional copies, contact Jacob Lupo at 410-887-3594 or [J.Lupo@bcps.org](mailto:J.Lupo@bcps.org).

Ms. Glass, on behalf of the Department of Special Education, complimented Ms. Grant on their wonderful work.

Ms. Shriver expressed her gratitude towards Ms. Kathleen McMahon, Executive Director, Elementary Programs and Ms. Gwen Grant, Executive Director, Secondary Programs for their collaborative efforts in the area of special education.

### **HIGH SCHOOL WORK GROUP**

Carl Bailey, Vice Chair of SECAC, updated the group on the last meeting of the high school work group. The work group had a very informative meeting with Dr. Baglin in late October. The work group will update SECAC again at the December meeting. Anyone who would like additional information, please contact Ms. Jasmine Shriver at 410-825-9570 for handouts.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Shriver announced that Kelli Nelson won the Education Advocate of the Year Award from the Baltimore County Commission on Disabilities. Congratulations Kelli on your well deserved recognition!

Ms. Shriver announced the locations/times for the Special Education Staffing Plan Meetings held on November 29<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-8:00PM. Literature with this information is being sent home with each student.

Ms. Shriver passed around a sign-up sheet for people interested in attending the annual dinner between the Board of Education and SECAC on Tuesday, January 11, 2005 at 6:00PM. This is a wonderful opportunity for us as parents to gather additional information, updates and responses to the independent evaluation of the BCPS Special Education Program conducted by Dr. Lou Barber during the 2003-04 school year that highlighted six major themes:

1. Educating Students with Disabilities in LRE
2. Organization of Special Education Support Services to Schools
3. Monitoring Compliance with Federal and State Mandates
4. Cost Containment
5. Professional Development
6. Web-based IEP System

Contact Ms. Shriver or Mr. Bailey for more information.

Information was distributed in regards to the "Together We're Better" Essay Contest in correlation with National Inclusion Week. For more information, refer to information packet from the November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting or go to [www.marylandpublicschools.org](http://www.marylandpublicschools.org) or [www.thearemd.org](http://www.thearemd.org) to download a copy of the information.

The next SECAC meeting will be held on Monday, December 13, 2004 at 7:00PM in Room 114 of the ESS Building. In discussion with Ms. Judy Glass, we have decided to recommence serving a light dinner at each meeting as was done in the past.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Jacob Lupo