

Harford County
Special Education Citizen/Community Advisory Committee
(SECAC)

General Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2026
6-7 pm, Zoom

Attendance (24)

Angela Sonnemann, Megan Fitzgerald, Kristy Gizinski, Marlyn McCall, Katie York, Carie Sadowski, Colleen Sasdelli, Diana-Ashley Krach, Florence Amah, Given Nuvorwotor, Jessica Huba, Joel Fuentes, Kathy Pitrat, Katia Inevil, Kimberly Heeter, Shilpa Narayan, Rachelle Johnson, Meredith Easter, Marlyn McCall, Mabel Tendeku, Lu Zhang, Lauren Harper, Lahcen Bouzahr

The chair called the meeting to order at 6pm.

● **Welcome & Announcements**

- Chair welcomed all to meeting
- C. Sasdelli had no updates
- M. Easter shared about the Harford Office of Disability Services' "Pathways to Stability" event on 1/29 at Edgewood Epicenter
- M. Fitzgerald shared about Partners for Success event "Navigating Life as a Special Needs Parent" on 1/21 (Zoom)

● **Speaker/Presenter(s)**

- The superintendent was not able to attend the meeting as scheduled.
- Chair Katie York presented "Everyday Advocacy: Getting Involved in Your Community"
- Non-partisan systems advocacy can be an effective way to impact others

- Examples of advocacy are working with SECAC leaders to advise HCPS, engaging with MSDE, and providing public comment
- Important to identify representatives- delegates, senators, county council, board of ed, etc
- Effective advocacy can look different based on issue trying to address
- Resources: The Arc Maryland, Maryland Council on Developmental Disabilities, People on the Go, and Maryland Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition

The meeting was adjourned by the chair at 7:00 pm.

Reminders

Next SECAC Meeting: February 12, 2026 on Zoom

Next HCPS Board of Education Meeting: 6pm on January 26, 2026, In Person (Bel Air) & online

Schedule, Live Stream, and Archive: www.hcps.org/boe/MeetingSchedule

Minutes Compiled By: Katie York, Chair