

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

General Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2026
6-7 pm, Zoom

Attendance (10)

Katie York, Colleen Sasdelli, Megan Fitzgerald, Kristy Gizinski, Shilpa Narayan, Kathy Pitrat, Lauren Harper, Nicole Jones-Watkins, Jeff Hoffman, Rachelle Johnson

The co-chair called the meeting to order at 6pm.

● **Welcome & Announcements**

- Co-chair welcomed all to meeting
- BOE Budget Public Input Session is scheduled for 6pm on 2/19 in Bel Air

- C. Sasdelli
 - Reminded attendees that due to the snow closure, the end of the marking period was extended to Feb 3, so IEP progress report should be delivered on or before the date when report cards are available.
 - MSDE Parent Survey opens on 3/2 and will close on 6/5
 - HCPS just received the survey results for Part C providers (Infant and Toddlers) and is proud of the input received. The percentage of families that shared that they are well-informed about their parental rights and that they feel like they are engaged in the IEP process is higher than it's ever been (in the 90s).

- [Empowered Expo](#) is on Saturday, April 11, 2026 from 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Bel Air High School
 - M. Fitzgerald
 - Link to most recent Partners for Success newsletter <https://app.smore.com/n/73baj-partners-for-success-monthly-update>
 - Harford County Public Library inclusive Easter egg hunt on Saturday, March 28, 1–4 PM at Coppermine Bel Air. For more information visit: <https://programs.hcplonline.org/event/15513226>
- **Speaker/Presenter(s)**

Dave Brown, executive director of Echo Resource Development, Inc.

 - “Integrated (Mental) Health: How Safety, Emotions, and Learning Connect”
 - There is no separation between physical and mental health
 - Promoting (mental) health is a proactive strategy to build resilience and strengthen protective factors
 - Emotional safety is as essential as physical safety for learning and development; cannot have physical safety without emotional safety
 - Behavior is a form of communication; it’s symptomatic of an underlying issue
 - How people learn to see themselves can be a reflection of how others treat them (If you only see me as a problem, that’s who I become.)
 - We can reduce the school to prison pipeline by not treating children like problems
 - It’s important to take care of yourself because you are important, period. Not so you can take care of others!

- When we take care of ourselves, we might be able to see people differently. And instead of giving them what we THINK they need, give them what they need.

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

Reminders

Next SECAC Meeting: March 12, 2026 on Zoom

Register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/of83sVTbR9u0g0FvfA4S1Q>

Next HCPS Board of Education Meeting: 6pm on February 23, 2026, In Person (Bel Air) & online

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

Minutes Compiled By: Katie York, Chair