

## **BOARD-APPOINTED STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE BOARD**

**Name of Committee:** The Carroll County Special Education Citizens' Advisory Council

**Date of Report:** May 12, 2004

**Primary Charge/Responsibilities of the Committee:** The Carroll County Special Education Citizen's Advisory Council (CarrollCo-SECAC) works to develop partnerships and facilitates discussion between parents, families, community leaders, educators and administrators in order to enhance services available to students with disabilities and to advocate for positive changes in special education services within Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS).

### **Significant Activities of the Committee:**

- "Creating Our Vision" strategic planning (July 2003)
- Implemented strategic plan and developed four work groups - Services, Outreach, Training, Policies (August 2003)
- State of Special Education - contributed significant input and organization with regard to this event; facilitated work groups to encourage additional input regarding our strategic plan from families, educators and the community
- National Inclusive Schools Week Proclamation and student/parent activities at two schools (November 2003)
- "Focus on Carroll" thirty-minute interview/program on Adelphia Channel 3 (January 2004)
- "Partnerships" distribution, containing pertinent and timely information, continued to all schools and the community (2003-BackToSchool and Fall, 2004-Winter and Spring)
- Presentations at Board of Education meetings, budget hearings, McDaniel College class, and Family Involvement Conference (April 2004, Baltimore Convention Center)
- Parent participant on the Comprehensive Master Plan review team
- Established Nominating Committee and Bylaws Work Group

### **Committee Recommendations to the Board:**

- Include National Inclusive Schools Week on the CCPS calendar and encourage schools to celebrate diversity and promote inclusion during this week each year (presented to BOE in April 2004)
- At the Links to Learning 2004, require each CCPS employee who is responsible for instruction or supervision of students to attend at least one special education focused session or special education/general education collaborative session (presented to BOE in April 2004)
- Create an electronic bulletin board on the CCPS website which would facilitate access to successful best practices
- Purchase approved Basal Reading Texts (grades 1-3) in all elementary schools over the next three years
- Support the development, copying and distribution of a handout for parents regarding recognizing struggling readers
- Support the development, copying and distribution of relevant materials pertaining to transition from school to post-secondary education and/or work
- Continue to support funding addressing the needs of children as opposed to the numbers of children receiving special education services
- Promote staffing to provide more inclusive classrooms while continuing the remedial efforts necessary to help every child succeed (i.e. Bridge to Excellence, No Child Left Behind)
- Continue to involve parents, who have children receiving special education services, and special education staff/administration in the formal review process of the Comprehensive Master Plan
- Support efforts to include all citizen's who want to be actively involved on this council as by-laws are being developed
- Continue supporting the partnership between families, educators and the community to promote positive changes in special education