



Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission
Special Education Committee

September 24, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Meeting Location

[Remote Zoom Meeting link](#)

Attendance

Members Present (In-person and remote)

- Yvonne VanLowe
- Tracy Craig
- Carmen Zahra
- Dr. Margaret Cage
- Susan Hartung

Staff Present

- Karen Gipson
- Crystel Britto

Guests

- Kyra Adam
- Emily Lamb
- Sam
- Quinn Hunter
- Stacey Ibekweh

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:04pm

Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The August 27, 2025 committee minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

The September 9, 2025 committee meeting minutes with Dr. Cage (MCPS) were approved by unanimous consent with the addition of the names of two members of the public.

Review and Approve Meeting Agenda

The meeting agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.

Meeting Minutes Agenda Items

1. Special Ed Committee Data Request. Dr. Cage shared that Chris Cram (MCPS Communication lead) included links to some of the data we requested in his response to us in July. Some of the links are not accessible. Crystel will resend the email communication to members of the committee for review. The \$338.72 charge reflects the fact that a person would need to curate the data into the categories the special education committee requested.
 - a. The committee will still pursue requesting the data via the MOU with HHS and MCPS. As such, Yvonne will request a vote from commissioners on 9/25/25 to submit our data request through the HHS MOU process.
 - b. Special Ed Priorities. Yvonne shared that commissioners will vote on the IDDC priorities at the 9/25/25 IDDC meeting. The special education committee has been asked to prepare an executive summary of our two priorities to be included in a verbal testimony should they be approved by the IDDC. Yvonne to draft an exec summary and share with the committee for input.
 - c. Non Public School Engagement. The committee discussed how to engage non-public schools in our work. We discussed engaging with MANSEF. Our objectives for engaging with MANSEF include:
 - i. inviting them to join our events, specifically our advocacy workshop
 - ii. offering them our support
 - iii. understanding their pain points/challenges as well as successes
 - iv. understand how they interface with the county, what support do they receive from the county
 - v. understand how they integrate in the community specifically around communication
 - vi. what type of community events they host including transition fairs and which county/state/federal agencies participate in the fairs
 - vii. Next step, write a letter to MANSEF introducing the IDDC and special education committee (leverage the letter to MCPS/BOE) and ask for a meeting. Yvonne to draft.
 - d. MCPS Boundary Study. Briefly discussed the two current MCPS boundary studies and how the IDDC Spec Ed committee should engage. Dr. Cage encouraged us to advocate to the BOE by providing verbal or video testimony at a BOE meeting and attending the boundary study meetings. Goal is to ensure that programs that serve

the special education population are maintained and that there are no adverse impacts to students with special needs.

- i. We will need to act quickly as the next phase of the boundary studies is ramping up. Yvonne to share the MCPS boundary study website link.
- ii. This site contains the information about the two ongoing MCPS boundary studies: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/facilities/boundary-study/>
This site provides information about how MCPS conducts boundary studies and what information is considered in the process.
<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/boundary/>
<https://ww2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/pdf/faara.pdf>
<https://ww2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/pdf/faara.pdf>
- iii. Here's a link from Tracy Craig regarding the boundary studies. In keeping with this excellent topic that Yvonne raised, I want to share the link that I received via text from MCPS yesterday evening. They are interested in community engagement on the topic. Please click here or copy into your browser:
- iv. <https://ww2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/publicinfo/community/school-year-2025-2026/Community-Message-20250923.html>

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be 10/22/2025 at 4pm.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01pm.