



Maryland Family Engagement Coalition Meeting
Monday, Aug. 19, 2019
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Julie Dobies, Evelyn English, Ashley Fehringer, Liza Frye, Mary Gunning, Melanie Martin, Kia McLeod, Marjorie Miles, Chris Peusch, Karmen Rouland, Patty Stine, Dorothy Stoltz, Chris Swanson, Carol Gant, Amy Kelley

- [The Maryland STEM Festival](#) Presentation: Phil Rogofsky, Maryland STEM Festival Executive Director, presented an overview of this annual statewide event.
 - The Maryland STEM Festival is a month-long celebration of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics that takes place every fall.
 - For 2019, the group will offer hundreds of events focused on fun and interactive science learning opportunities.
 - The Festival highlights the educational, cultural and financial impact of science in Maryland.
 - The mission of the Festival is to encourage all students, regardless of background, to take a greater interest in STEM with the hope they will pursue a STEM-related career.
 - This year, 22 of the 24 jurisdictions will host 330 events across the state with 30,000 families expected to participate.
 - The theme for the 2019 Maryland STEM Festival, which will be held from October 11 until November 10, is “Space and Flight”.
 - The celebration focuses on the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 landing on the moon (July 19, 1969) and the 60th Anniversary of the Goddard Space Flight Center (March 1, 1959).
 - The annual [STEM Art Contest](#) will feature four levels of students, Elementary School (K-5), Middle School (6-8), High School (9-12) and College, who will win cash prizes for participation.
 - Winning entries will be announced on October 19 at the STEM Parade in Bowie and displayed from November 3-10 at the [NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's Visitor Center](#).
 - Please visit the [website](#) for more information about upcoming STEM events.

- The 2019 Maryland Family Engagement Summit Briefing: Dorothy Stoltz, Carroll County Public Library, presented an overview of this year's Summit.
 - During the October meeting, Coalition members will start the planning process for next year's Summit.
 - This year, over 200 diverse educators from across the state attended the 2019 Maryland Family Engagement Summit.

Patty Stine— I am concerned about the attendance versus the actual registration.

Dorothy Stoltz—I know over the last couple of years we went over the maximum count of 300 in registration. This year, we went up to 400 allowing for “no shows”.

Mary Gunning— We really need to do something about the “no shows” because it was a really good conference with great information.

Chris Peuch—The low attendance is because we do not charge anything. We can charge \$5 or \$30 to ensure commitment. It can be in donations.

Evelyn English—I heard from many people who wanted to attend and bring their staff but registration was closed. We saw so many empty seats and those people could have attended, which was unfortunate because the keynote was amazing.

Chris Peuch—I was on vacation so I watched the live stream and the keynote was fabulous. She was one of the best keynotes I have seen in a while.

Evelyn English—One of the things I liked about her is that she seemed so authentic as if she lived it.

Chris Peuch—Yes, she was authentic.

Mary Gunning—Another thing is that there was definitely a drop off after lunch.

Patty Stine—Both sessions that I had in the morning and afternoon were pretty empty.

Melanie Martin—My morning and afternoon sessions were pretty empty. However, it was not necessarily a bad thing because they were quite intimate. Everyone had an opportunity to talk.

Dorothy Stoltz—That’s what I appreciated was the opportunity to have real, meaningful conversations.

Julie Dobies— I think that this year’s Summit ran a whole lot smoother, especially with the keynote in the morning and the panel after lunch.

Kia McLeod— In terms of the schedule, I think it worked really well. By breaking it up, there was more opportunity for networking. As far as attendance, our numbers were low. However, I can tell you that on Facebook, during the live stream, our numbers were impressive.

Ashley Fehringer—Are there any plans for a follow-up conversation? It was a great conference with a wonderful speaker. However, I have been to great conferences with great speakers and conversations that tend to fall off after the event.

Kia McLeod—We will be distributing the presentation as well as other resources in a special e-news edition of the Toolkit “In Action”. You can also check out the website where we are featuring two resource collections that focus on Summit topics such as Implicit Bias and Suspension and Expulsion.

Evelyn English—I just wanted to mention that when people are around food, they are usually talking about the food. This year, they were still talking about the keynote speaker.

Patty Stine— I would like to discuss having “Play” as a topic for next year. Play is the best way to build a community.

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- Maryland Family Engagement Coalition Updates: Kia McLeod, MSDE, presented an overview of the membership request.
 - In April, Coalition members had a preliminary discussion about the membership request from Mrs. Rachel Tate.
 - With the Summit and other very important topics, the discussion and vote was delayed.
 - However, Mrs. Tate has been waiting a long time for a decision from the Coalition.

- Therefore, today Coalition members in attendance will vote on her request.

Chris Peuch— I thought we already talked about allowing other organizations to join the Coalition. If we allow Rachel, then we have to allow the other groups and organizations who requested membership.

Julie Dobies— We also discussed developing sub committees.

Kia McLeod— That discussion was actually in reference to the “friends of” and partnership program, which members decided was not a good fit for the Coalition. This is different, and a separate conversation because it’s an individual who is interested.

Chris Peuch— Is this included in the bylaws?

Amy Kelley— Are we going to solicit representation of a parent with a special needs child from every county? I think this is good but how are we going to expand this across the state?

Marjorie Miles— For the Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services, we have two parents and two administrators from every county who work with me. This gives us a variety of perspectives.

Dorothy Stoltz— Here’s another thought: The Early Childhood Advisory Committee has in the bylaws the types of organizations that should be represented. I think we have something similar in our bylaws. In addition, these committee meetings are open to the public. They cannot vote, but they can participate in the conversation. Therefore, that might be a consideration here. However, this is the first person who really wants to be a part of this group. I think there can be a role for her as well as for other interested parents.

Kia McLeod— Let’s review the bylaws.

Dorothy Stoltz— The bylaws state: At least once per year or as necessary, nominations for Coalition membership shall be solicited. The Coalition shall consist of 32 diverse members representing family-serving organizations from across the state with varying areas of expertise or influence, such as:

- Community-Based Organizations
- Consultants
- Corporate
- Education Associations
- Higher Education
- Families
- School Districts
- School Boards
- State Government

Rachel Tate will be representing families. Let’s move to vote.

Members voted unanimously to confirm Rachel Tate as a new member of the Maryland Family Engagement Coalition.

- Future Meetings - 3rd Monday - every other month from 1- 3:30 p.m.

- October 21, December 16