

**WASHINGTON COUNTY
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING
December 12, 2017**

The Washington County Special Education Advisory Committee met at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 12, 2017 in the Special Services Office. The following members and guests were present: Mary Malina, Marian Berryman, and Angie Cullop. Attending from Special Services Staff were Shawnee Jessee, Debbie Neese, Lisa McCoy and Connie Phillips. Tom Williams, transportation coordinator, and Dawn Crosswhite, transportation secretary, were also in attendance as presenters.

Ms. Phillips welcomed the members of the Special Education Advisory Committee. She presented the article, T/TAC Highlights, written by T/TAC that featured Washington County Public Schools (WCS). The article highlighted the graduation success of students with disabilities in WCS. In 2015-2016, 66% of students with disabilities in WCS graduated with a standard or advanced diploma, and in 2016-2017, the Virginia Department of Education reported that WCS' graduation rate of students with disabilities increased to 73%, well above the state average of 53% and 54% respectively in those same year. Ms. Phillips indicated the success in the graduation rate was due to the efforts of staff, students, parents and other educational stakeholders.

Mr. Williams and Ms. Crosswhite spoke about transportation for students who need specialized transportation. They demonstrated a new computerized program that has been implemented across the county for all buses and cars to track routes and provide important information to maintain transport safety. Other topics discussed by Mr. Williams were the following: altered schedules, video cameras on the bus, and bus mileage per day.

Ms. McCoy updated the committee on the book study that was completed in December covering the book "Shouting Won't Grow Dendrites" by Marcia Tate. There were 11 members in regular attendance to the book study. Elementary, middle and high school teachers were all members of the group and had many strategies and insights in how to promote positive school cultures within their school environments. Members will be scheduled to present to the advisory committee during the February meeting.

The committee expressed no other concerns or questions. The next scheduled meeting will be in February.

Minutes submitted by:

Connie Phillips
Supervisor of Special Services