MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL POPULATIONS June 27, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. with the following Board members and Board support staff present: Shirley Brandman (chair), Judy Docca, Philip Kauffman, Ikhide Roland Ikheloa (Chief of Staff), and Glenda Rose (recorder).

Staff members that were present: Chrisandra Richardson, Julie Hall, Elena Dennis, Heather Wilson, Kia Middleton-Murphy, and Gwen Mason.

Minutes

The minutes from May 22, 2013, were approved.

The Committee continued exploring concerns raised about developing and implementing IEPs and resolving disputes as well as defining specific questions to guide a comprehensive review or audit of special education processes. After a review of possible questions generated by the discussion at the April 8, 2013, and May 22, 2013, meetings, committee members further identified areas of possible inquiry. A key area of interest centered on the IEP meeting itself, training staff and principals, and feedback from the meetings by parents. The committee reviewed several survey formats. It was decided that someone with expertise needs to be involved to formulate survey questions.

Other areas of general concern raised during the discussion included whether/how parents of special needs students learn to navigate the system; and whether there are limits put on IEP services based on limited resources or lack of availability. The committee spent some time discussing with staff how MCPS addresses the reality of limited resources and escalating student needs.

Committee members were asked to provide Ms. Brandman with any additional suggestions in advance of the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 2:22 p.m.