

Partnership  for Extraordinary Minds

The MCPS FY19 Reorganization Explained

A Brief Summary for Parents of
Students with IEPs

Brief History of the FY19 MCPS Administrative Reorganization

- In January 2018, Superintendent Smith submitted a proposal to eliminate the 6 Special Education (SpEd) Cluster Supervisor positions and to redistribute the instructional specialists working under them to the Office of School Support and Improvement (OSSI), which is outside the Department of Special Education.
- The MCCPTA Special Needs Committee, Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), and xMinds submitted testimony to the Board of Education (BOE) objecting to this proposal.
- At the February 13, 2018 MCPS BOE Meeting, BOE member Rebecca Smondrowski proposed keeping 3 of the 6 Supervisor positions in the Department of Special Education. This motion passed with the provision that these 3 supervisors (now called “SpEd Area Supervisors”) would serve as resources to a specific Area Associate Superintendent in the newly reorganized OSSI (see slides 5 & 6).

How Else has the Organizational Structure of the Department of Special Education Changed?

- Only 1 of the 3 new SpEd Area Supervisors, Eric Kuhn, has previously served as a Cluster Supervisor. The other 2 Area Supervisors are new to the Department of Special Education.
- The positions of the SpEd instructional specialists who previously reported to the SpEd Cluster Supervisors have been eliminated.
- 3 Itinerant Resource Specialist positions and 5 Content Specialist positions have been added to the Department of Special Education.
- Some individuals who previously reported to the Department of Special Education will now be serving in OSSI as Learning and Academic Specialists.

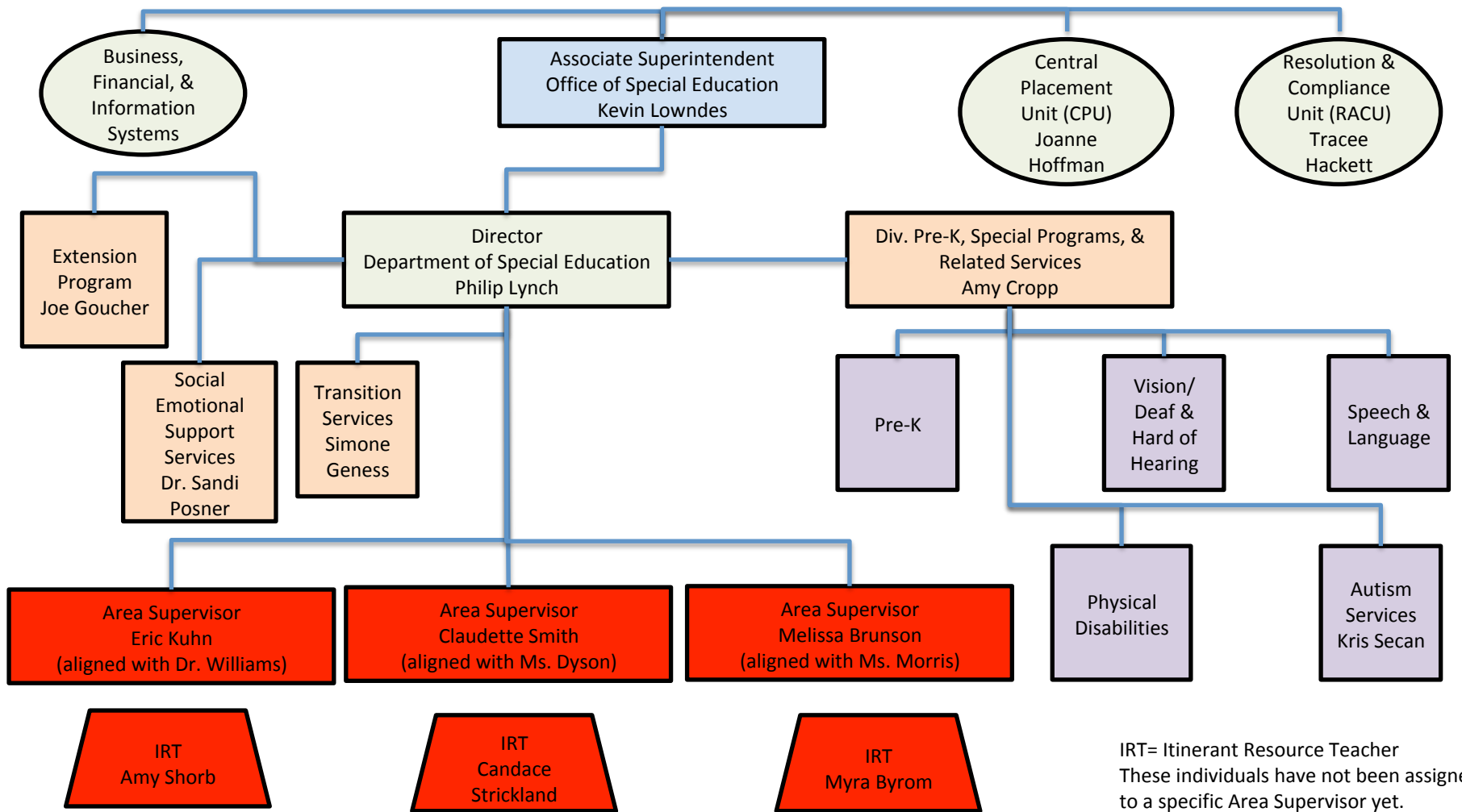
What Parents Should Know about the Reorganization

- The new Special Education Area Supervisors are Eric Kuhn, Claudette Smith, and Melissa Brunson.
- These Supervisors will be working on collaboratively with Area Associate Superintendents Dr. Darryl Williams, Ms. Cheryl Dyson, and Ms. Diane Morris, respectively. (See organizational charts on Slides 5 & 6)
- Each Area Superintendent in OSSl will have 3 directors supporting him or her.
- School principals report directly to these directors in OSSl.
- If parents have a disagreement with their child's IEP team that cannot be resolved at the principal/school level, they should contact the Special Education Area Supervisor assigned to their child's school.

Who is My New Special Education Area Supervisor?

- **Eric Kuhn** is aligned with Dr. Darryl Williams, who oversees
 - Clarksburg, Sherwood, Watkins Mill, Quince Orchard, Seneca Valley, Walter Johnson, Gaithersburg, and Northwest Clusters
 - Blair G. Ewing Center
 - Longview Center
 - Regional Institute for Children and Adolescents (RICA)
- **Claudette Smith** is aligned with Cheryl Dyson who oversees
 - Kennedy, Magruder, Rockville, Winston Churchill, Einstein, Richard Montgomery, Blake, Paint Branch, and Walt Whitman Clusters
 - Carl Sandburg Learning Center
 - Rock Terrace
 - Stephen Knolls
- **Melissa Brunson** is aligned with Diane Morris, who oversees
 - Blair, Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Northwood, Wheaton, Wooton, Damascus, Poolesville, and Springbrook Clusters
 - Lathrop E. Smith Center
 - Thomas Edison

MCPS Office of Special Education Reorganization effective July 1, 2018*



IRT= Itinerant Resource Teacher
These individuals have not been assigned to a specific Area Supervisor yet.

Content Specialists:

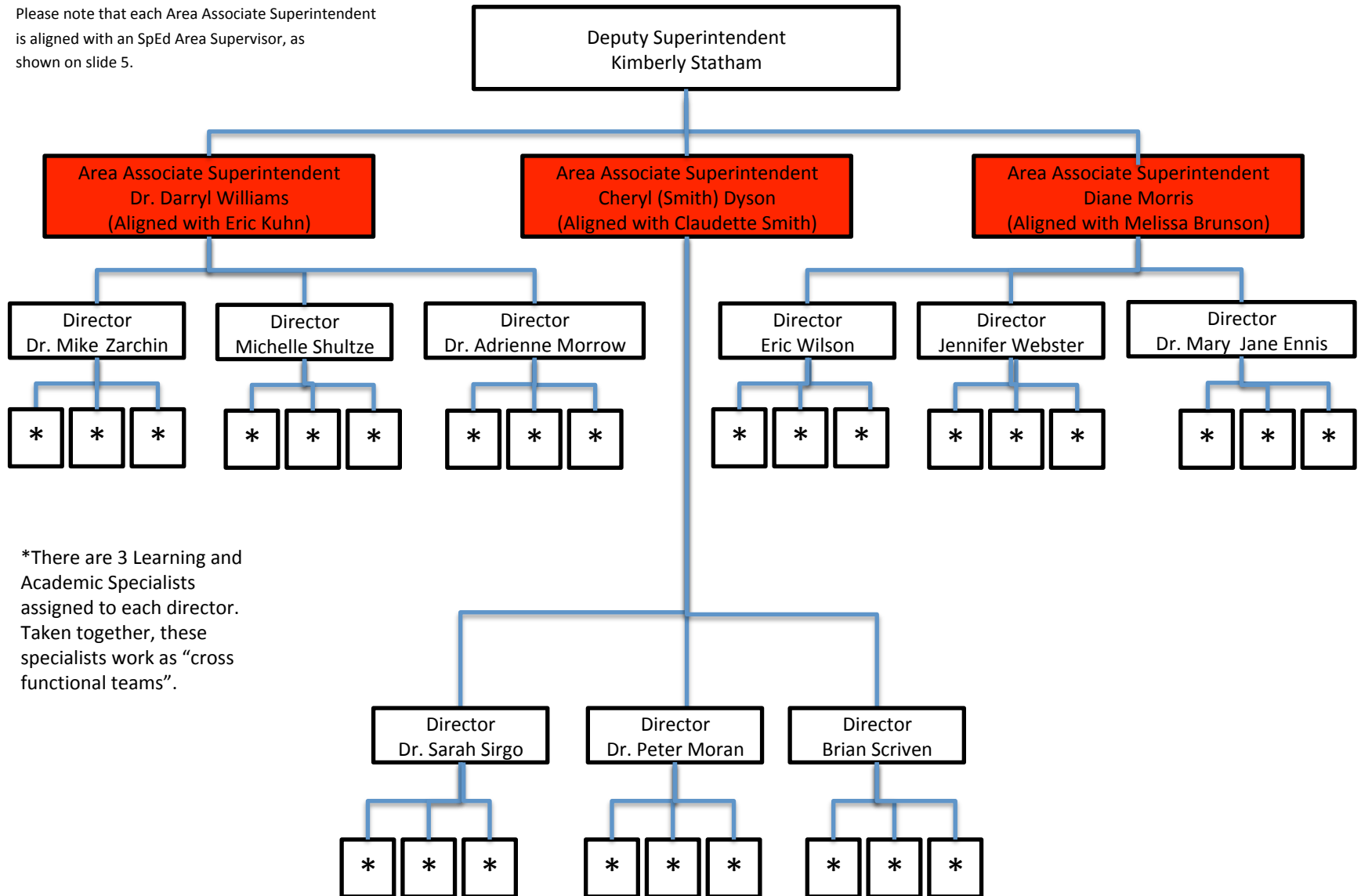
- Sophia Sohoratally
- Jessica Gould
- Kelly Jiron
- Genevive Goodman
- Jackie Loso Hongladarom



New positions and structures are shaded in red. Please note that each SpEd Area Supervisor is aligned with an Area Associate Superintendent in OSSI, as shown on slide 6.

MCPS Office of School Support and Improvement (OSSI) Reorganization effective July 1, 2018

New positions and structures are shaded in red.
 Please note that each Area Associate Superintendent is aligned with an SpEd Area Supervisor, as shown on slide 5.



*There are 3 Learning and Academic Specialists assigned to each director. Taken together, these specialists work as “cross functional teams”.

Definitions

- **Area** is being used to denote that responsibilities are being divided geographically. Several clusters report to one Area Supervisor / Superintendent.
- **CPU** = Central Placement Unit, which makes decisions regarding private placement at the district's expense and monitors the quality of these nonpublic placements .
- **IRT** = Itinerant Resource Teacher, who provides instructional supports to students and staff. IRTs facilitate collaboration between school-based general and special education teachers in order to support instruction for students with disabilities.
- **OSSI** = Office of School Support and Improvement, which develops and implements professional learning opportunities, leadership development, and comprehensive and coordinated programs and services that focus on these three areas: Learning, Accountability and Results; Operational Excellence; and Skillful Leadership.
- **RACU** = Resolution and Compliance Unit, which monitors and supports the provision of procedural safeguards under the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA 2004).