

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

## Special Education Advisory Committee Mtg.

Attendees: Sara Cook, Jessica Joyner, Towanda Shirley, Kirstyn O'Neil (Chair), Christy Cole (Holy Neck Borough), Megan Downs, Trisha Holoman, Jonathan, DawnMarie Brittingham, Charlotte Brooksdale, Katherine Merihea, Christi Catching, James Gunther

Online Attendees: Stephanie Whitley (Chuckatuck Borough), Jamillah Silver, Holly Boyce, Melissa Smetts, Shannon Fogle, Nicole Barnett

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### Notes

- I. Welcome and Introductions (6:37PM Start)
  - A. Welcome by Kirstyn, SEAC Chair
  - B. Ice Breaker and introductions of attendees
- II. Announcements and Correspondence
  - A. Sarah with Endependence Center- Upcoming Meetings:
    1. July 8- August 8: Independent Living Skills Training, Advocacy, and Work Readiness
- III. Public Comment
  - A. Parent asked:
    1. What is the official communication in who they should talk to when they have an issue with their students teacher. Parent feels like SPS let them down in regard to their students needs.
    2. Does SPS track when students de-enroll?
    3. Does/Is their a mediation type setup based off of concerns?
    4. What steps need to be taken for IEP to remain active, after student leaves SPS?

- a) It's important that students and families/guardians, maintain communication with SPS so that if/when a student re-enrolls with SPS all testing and needs are up-to-date.

#### IV. Special Education Reports

##### A. Parent Resource Center (PRC) Report: Towanda Shirley for Dr. Velvet Smith

1. Parental Engagement: As of May 14, 142 contacts to the Resource Center. Most of the information that is requested is regarding navigating the special education process and what resources and supports are available at the center.
  - a) Most recently the PRC has seen an influx in interest in the Early Start Program.
2. Parent Resource Center Action Plan:
  - a) A critical piece of the PRC has been to re-brand with a revised vision, mission, and values that highlights the importance of school and families working together to support our children.
3. Effective May 31, Dr. Velvet Smith will no longer be the liaison for the PRC. and, parents will be directed to the SPED Dept.

##### B. Directors Report: Towanda Shirley

1. Recent SPED Events:
  - a) Little Feet Meet Event on April 19 had 55 family units participating.
    - (1) Little Feet Meet provided an opportunity for elementary students to engage with others at Kings Fork High School with and without disabilities, by using sports to engage all and to allow for new friendships, improved self esteem, and gain a deeper community.
  - b) Champions Together Track and Field Event on May 1. Both this event and Little Feet Meet were organized by James Gunther.
2. Upcoming SPED Training:
  - a) The week of May 20th- All Special Education Teachers, Program Teachers, and Building LEA's work on end of year procedures and How to Extend Social Emotional Learning Over the Summer
3. Upcoming SPED Personnel Changes:

- a) Several lead changes in the SPED Dept, beginning July 1. Dr. Cassandra McNair will be the new SPS SPED Director.

V. Presentation by Sara Cook on the basics of IEPS/504s

VI. Old Business

- 1. Getting the word out about SEAC/SPS Current Policy

- a) Present Letter- Draft #1- To get more Community Participation

VII. New Business

A. Approval of January Minutes-

- 1. Christy- Motioned, Kyrsten 2nd, Voted and Passed

B. Next Meeting Moms in Motion will be present to present the CCC waiver

VIII. Adjournment (8:32PM)