



Special Education Committee Minutes

October 12, 2017

Board Chair— Jennifer Gormley

Administrative Liaison—Alyssa Marton

Attendance—Please see the accompanying committee attendance sheet.

Jennifer Gormley called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm

Ms. Gormley gave a review of the FERPA regulations from last meeting and moving forward.

The minutes of the September 19, 2017 meeting were approved.

Old Business

- Creative Bridges Art Program: Carrie Tamutus present at the meeting to share the purpose of the art activity. She is an art therapist and has a private practice in Newtown. Approaches art a little differently. Not as much about creating skills more about working towards students strengths. To create authentic friendships through art because it is non-threatening. It is going to be open relaxed and fun. Empathy and support for the typical students. Looking to get the group engaged and nurture the relationships and friendships. That is the foundation for which this has evolved. This will be part of an art show. Met as a small group yesterday and was very welcomed and helpful. carrie@justmakeartstudio.com

New Business

- Resources and Communication: Ms. Gormley referenced the chain of command letter that was put out in the start of the year. Teachers really want to problem solve. If you have questions or concerns please reach out to the school team. If not sure about something please reach out to the building principal and he/she will coordinate this. Dr. Yanni: Described the chain of command document and why we need it. We will send the chain of command out again. We will put it with the minutes of the meeting.
- Proposal of round table discussion: Mrs. Gormley suggested meeting outside the SEC committee for everyone to talk. Maybe coffee once a month. It can be more personal and we can reflect and share successes. If the committee likes the idea, Mrs. Gormley will work with leadership to select dates.

Dr. Yanni: Great things happening in special education. Over the 5 year period it has been amazing. We have great co-teaching at all schools. Even with decreasing enrollment this has not decreased. This department is one of the bright spots in the District. Since the beginning of the school year there have been 4 requests for

tuition students. Parent P: stated that it is very different coming from somewhere else. Dr. Yanni most adorable elementary school teacher ever. Natural change in communication from level to level. When kids matriculate from one level to the next communication naturally changes. So we can speak with our staff to be more sensitive at the transition levels. Parents can and should share how they want communication to look like.

- Review of upcoming SEC agenda topics: IU Hope teacher will come and present about the program. Transition to adulthood: College programs, OVR job coaching, job placement. Pre-K counts and EI programs to hopefully be housed in NH. This would also include students with multiple disability support needs. Boy Scouts to present that they have groups for students with special needs. Weis shopping low sensory evenings.
- Review of BOG 006.2: After last meeting we spoke with Mr. Tom Warner , our special education attorney about the recordings for committee meetings. There was confusion about who can redact the recordings. We will record every committee. We will redact what we need if that comes up. Mrs. Gormley provided additional detail about the meetings and the use of minutes in lieu of the recordings when necessary. Dr. Cortellessa discussed MS process and maybe do an additional session to introduce to staff and terminology. Ms. H – gave kudos to MS for technology meeting at BTSN.

People were nervous about the changes so Dr. Yanni explained and provided an executive summary for the members. The summary was reviewed.

- 113—Special Education
- 113.1—Discipline of Students with Disabilities
- 113.2—Screening and Evaluations for Students with Disabilities
- 113.3—Behavior Support
- 216—Student Records

Public Comment

- None

Jennifer Gormley adjourned the meeting at 6:59.

Respectfully submitted,

Alyssa Marton
Director of Student Services