

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

## Special Education Advisory Committee Mtg.

Attendees: Regina Hall, Christi Catchergs, Sarah Cook, Velvet Smith, Hitomi Dillon, Jamillah Silver, Jessica Joyner, Kelly Macpherson, Marisol Moore, Towanda Shirley, Kirstyn O'Neil, Christy Cole (Holy Neck Borough), Stephanie Whitley (Chuckatuck Borough),

Online Attendees: Laney with Moms in Motion, Katie (mom), Charlotte, and Vivian

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### Notes

- I. Welcome and Introductions (6:35PM Start)
  - A. Welcome by Kirstyn SEAC Chair
  - B. Ice Breaker and introductions of attendees
- II. Announcements and Correspondence
  - A. Sarah with Independent Center- Upcoming Meetings:
    1. Jan 24, How to handle when emotionally stressed out
    2. Feb 3, Parents and Partners Events
  - B. SPS Tiny Tacklers- Jan 31st
- III. Public Comment
  1. No Comments
- IV. Special Education Reports
  - A. Director's Report: Towanda Shirley
    1. December 1 Count successfully submitted. 1,907 student involvement
    2. Annual Plan will be presented at March SEAC meeting
    3. Empowerment Wednesdays through PRC and Dr. Smith
    4. Transition Support at the Secondary Level

5. Upcoming Special Education Department Training has been very successful
6. Family Information Session for children from birth through 5 year old

B. Parent Resource Center (PRC) Report: Dr. Velvet Smith

1. PRCL has been invited to attend the Jan. LEA Sessions, to make admin aware of the types of concerns parents are having when navigating IEPs, 504, etc.
2. January began Empower Wednesdays Webinar Series, offering practical tips and resources for parents. The first webinar was on WOOP (Wish Obstacle Outcome and Plan)
3. Upcoming Events:
  - a) January 27, College Fair at KFH, PRCL with support Suffolk Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Inc. with their Uniquely Prepared Students grant program.
  - b) February 14, Empowerment Wednesday Webinar- Love of Reading: Fostering Literacy and Enjoyment at Home
  - c) March 13, Empowerment Wednesday Webinar- March into Math: Fun and Effective Math Strategies for Home

C. Special Education Data Report: Steven Edwards, Testing Coordinator

1. Went through the 2000-2023 school year testing scores and shared through a PowerPoint, how SPS SPED students are comparing to where they were pre-Covid, in regard to testing and graduating, and what the scores show as of 2023.

V. Old Business

A. SEAC goals for 2024- Stephanie motioned, Christy 2nd, Motion Passed

1. Continue to advance Disability Awareness and acceptance within SPS community
2. Continue to develop methods to improve communication with all SPS Special Education stakeholders
3. Review current policy regarding access to IEPs and 504s for instructional staff members, including substitutes.

4. Develop improved systems for students and their families transitioning from one building and education level to the next.
  5. Work with SPS staff to help review and suggest programs throughout SPS, including, but not limited to: sensory areas, classrooms location, restraint training, and transition/work skills opportunities.
  6. Support parent training by making it more available and equitable to parents among all grade levels and all parts of the district.
  7. Grow SEAC and increase participation.
- B. SEAC subcommittees for 2024: Stephanie motioned, Christy 2nd, Motion Passed
1. Community Engagement Subcommittee
  2. Policy Review Subcommittee

#### VI. New Business

- A. Approval of November Minutes- Stephanie motioned, Kirstyn 2nd, Motion Passed
- B. Meeting location/providing childcare
1. Discussed changing location
  2. Possibly asking Betas to assist with childcare
- C. Getting the word out about SEAC/SPS current policy
1. Need to change policy so Special Education Dept. and SEAC will thrive.
  2. Ask that each school building request a representative to attend the SEAC meetings.
  3. Question Presented: How do parents find out about the various events?
    - a) On the Parent Resource Page Website
    - b) SPED Page
    - c) SPED Teachers share the information

#### VII. Public Comment Review

- A. Jamilla: Thank Kirstyn for participating in Family Involvement Night

B. Charlotte- It is difficult for those attending the meeting online to hear when the individual speaking is not near the speaker.

VIII. Open Discussion

IX. Adjournment (8:52PM)