

SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Opening

The regular meeting of the SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on September 12, 2017 at the Shakopee District Offices by Mary Alice Fredericks, Chairperson.

Present

Mary Alice Fredericks (Chair), Sharlene James-Whited (Vice Chair, Acting Secretary), Julie Fred (Special Services Director), Sue Broehm (SACS), and 3 visitors (2 parents, 1 administrator) were in attendance.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was approved.

Approval of Minutes

The May Meeting Decisions were approved.

Open Issues

OVERVIEW OF ACADEMIES FROM A SPECIAL EDUCATION PERSPECTIVE:

The Academies will be implemented in Fall 2018; preparations are still being made. A large factor is how enrollment falls. Will adjust staff based on enrollment choices; will strive to create meaningful jobs and experiences for SE students. SE Parents have expressed confusion on how to navigate through the upcoming Academy system. **SEPAC suggested creating a parent engagement and support system to accommodate these parents.**

\$2 MILLION CONSTRUCTION SHORTFALL AND ITS IMPACT ON SPECIAL EDUCATION:

The District is making cuts to accommodate this deficit. Grant money and donations will be allocated to keep SE running smoothly. No major impact is expected in the area of equipment purchases.

SUMMARY OF BUDGET CUTS:

All areas of the District had to make difficult choices to accommodate cuts. SE cut one administrative position. No teaching staff reductions are anticipated. All SE staff is taking on more work and responsibility. **SEPAC expressed appreciation for efforts to minimize any impact on the students.**

ISSUES/DECISIONS REGARDING SPECIAL EDUCATION:

The biggest challenge is continuing support for SE teachers and staff. Focusing on using professional development time to provide teachers with strategy training and input. Due Process Nights have been established for teachers to reach out directly with administration and receive input. District is also under Onsite Monitoring which will provide more information on how to improve SE programs.

New Business

ESY Extension for Summer 2018

Modified School Supply Lists for Special Education Students

Creating Individual Appointments for Special Education Students During Fall Open Houses

Agenda for Next Meeting

Upcoming Academies from a Special Education Perspective

Facebook Page Update

Individual School Updates by SEPAC Representatives

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00p.m. by Mary Alice Fredericks, Chairperson. **The next general meeting will be at 6:00p.m. on November 14, 2017, in at the District Offices located at 1200 Town Square.**

Minutes submitted by: Sharlene James-Whited

Approved by: Mary Alice Fredericks