

Meeting Notes

I. Introductions

Mrs. Jessica Lengle, Director of Special Education, facilitated the meeting. Mrs. Lori Mosser, Secretary to the Director of Special Education attended and took notes for the meeting. Four parents of students with special needs were in attendance.

II. Review Meeting Norms

Mrs. Lengle briefly reviewed the meeting norms that were developed at the November 2018 meeting. Additionally, Mrs. Lengle distributed a hard copy of the minutes from the November 2018 meeting to the parents in attendance and reminded them that the meeting agendas and minutes are posted on our district website.

The meeting norms that were reviewed are below:

1. Maintain confidentiality and respect for other team members at all times.
2. Listen to others with an open mind and ask clarifying questions when something is not understood.
3. Progress, not perfection, will remain at the forefront of discussion.
4. We will keep in mind ALL students and ALL parents.


III. Mission Statement Development

Mrs. Lengle provided approximately 18 sample mission statements and the parents were invited to discuss how each could represent what this committee hopes to achieve. Following a productive discussion, the following was developed:

The Special Education Parent Advisory Committee exists to advise the WASD on matters relating to *continuous program improvement* efforts as they pertain to special education. We will work to provide *communitywide support* to families of students with special needs from early intervention through 12th grade who participate in WASD's special education programs.

IV. Updates from the Special Education Department

Following a recommendation from the committee in November, Mrs. Lengle developed a brochure to distribute to all parents attending Early Intervention meetings held at the BCIU in February of 2019. In addition to the newly developed brochure, WASD has ordered a resource from PaTTAN entitled 'The Transition Process From Early Intervention to School-Age Programs: Guidelines to Support Parents'. This additional resource will also be provided



to families at Early Intervention meetings. Mrs. Lengle shared the sample brochure and the PaTTAN resource.

The next edition of our district newsletter will be coming out soon and two programs within our special education department will be featured. The first is a new initiative at the JSHS where our life skills and autistic support students provide snacks to staff through a program called 'Snack Attack'. The program is self-funded and the students use it to learn money skills, computer skills (maintaining inventory) and social skills. This program is enjoyed by both students and staff! The second feature in the district newsletter is our annual Holiday Shopping trip. Boscov's East opens its doors early one time each year to invite students and adults with special needs to shop in a friendly environment. Students bring a list they have developed with their parents and receive support in the store to shop for their families. Free gift wrapping, snacks and holiday music are provided by Boscov's. Our students are thrilled every year to be able to give surprise gifts to their families at the holidays.

Our Best Buddies club at the JSHS continues to thrive and grow. We recently partnered with All Abilities Fitness to run an event for us and it was very well received. We hope to partner with them again in the near future and will investigate whether we could hire them to provide babysitting services while we offer a parent training.


This year, the opportunities for our Extended School Year ("ESY") programming continue to grow. The Summer Work Experience and Assessment Program ("SWEAP") run by Goodwill Industries and the Students Transitioning to Achieve Realistic Success ("STARS") run by AIM were highlighted by Mrs. Lengle.

The PASA testing window is quickly approaching and the Pennsylvania Department of Education has required all school districts to submit a PASA Waiver Justification for all school districts who have PASA eligible students exceeding the 1% participation cap. Mrs. Lengle recently submitted this document to the state because we are over the 1% participation cap by .36%.

New this year at WHEC, we are trialing adaptive specials. We have offered adaptive physical education for many years and have used the other special area classes for inclusion for many special education students. We currently have a few students who are unable to be mainstreamed for STEAM, library and art, but by offering an adaptive class in these areas, we are able to provide those students with exposure to these courses in a safe environment.

V. Website Review

Mrs. Lengle projected the district website and allowed the committee to review the areas related to special education. Due to time constraints, Mrs. Lengle asked the committee to review the website on their own time and share feedback with her via email.





VI. Summer Special Education Department Day

The Special Education Department has one to two summer professional development days. Committee members requested time to provide breakfast to the professional staff attending these meetings. It was also suggested to have some of our students serve, or at least attend for a brief period, to show their appreciation to the staff. One parent offered to lead a subcommittee to plan this event. Since support staff are not included in the summer professional development days, the subcommittee will develop a plan to show appreciation for these staff members early in the 19-20 academic year.

VII. Ticket out the Door

Prior to adjourning the meeting, Mrs. Lenge asked all attendees to share, in writing, one thing we did not discuss today that they wished we had. Additionally, Mrs. Lenge offered all attendees the opportunity to write down an anonymous “shout out” to someone in our department who has contributed to their child’s success. Three parents choose to do this and the notes were shared with the respective staff.

