

**Special Education Parent Working Group
10/16/2018**

Minutes

Members present:

Esther Calzada
Vilma Luna
Vijaya Srinivasan
Maggie Suter
Mara LaViola
Heather Sheffield
Shelly Corrigan
Priya Jai

Members absent:

David Garcia
Jay Propes
Bill Burgess

Staff present:

Molly May
Caroline Nelson

Child Find:

Posters have been created and printed.

*Committee members were asked to put them up around the community in public spaces as we are out and about. (Pediatricians offices/therapy offices/libraries etc...)

School Safety Discussion

School Resource Officers (SROs): We have had SRO's at Westlake HS for about 15 years. They have mental health training, active shooter/stop the shooter training, stop the bleed and search and seizure training. There is a safety dog, Vito, a Labrador retriever who lives with SRO Brian Peals (handler and owner). SRO's teach lessons in our CERT (emergency/EMT) classes and often serve on the leadership team of WHS.

Parents shared different encounters with SROs over the years. The discussion prompted inquiries about how SRO's are utilized and if they had training in the rights of students with disabilities and what was the expectation of their role. Parents discussed the SROs presence could be both a create both a positive and/or negative impact on school climate.

Molly explained that although SRO's are there to support staff and students, and they were not responsible for disciplining students. She did stress that when a crime occurs on campus, the situation may be turned over to law enforcement and the administration is no longer controlling the situation.

There was a question about the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to clarify what is the role/job of the SROs. Other questions were discussed in terms of when to intervene with students with disabilities and teaching versus discipline situations.

*Molly said she would look into the MOU.

Standard Response Protocol (SRP): Questions about how all students were understanding the SRP. Molly said she would look into how it was rolled out. There was mention of a video. Parents had concerns that just showing the video would not be enough for students with disabilities.

There should be a school/home connection. A parent discussed sharing emergency protocols during ARD's that would be specific to individual students.

Molly shared that teachers need to be empowered to do what's best and that there was a big training before school started this year. She also said that these protocols are changing and evolving. She sent an email to all sped staff recently asking what they need/what do they think about special education standard response protocols. Are needs being met? She is currently getting feedback.

*The committee agreed that larger community conversations were needed around these areas.

School Safety Health Advisory Council:

There is a slate of members. Linda Rawlings is in charge and said any parent can come to meetings but only members can vote (they don't vote on much anyway). Meetings are mostly about sharing information. There are currently members on the committee that have special education children.

Special Education Department Initiatives Update:

Community Building Group already has 73 applicants so far! Last date to apply is Friday 10/19.

Audit:

Molly is presenting more information to and asking questions of the Board on 10/23 and there will be more discussion. Molly asked us to reach out into the parent community to gain greater participation for surveys or focus groups when the audit begins.

Universal Design for Learning:

Molly shared that Universal Design for Learning (UDL) expert, Dr. Kristen Rodriguez, speaker came and presented to leadership team, educational technologists, and instructional partners. She gave information on modeling UDL as a leader, and there now exists an implementation team of 12 people from the district. An implementation plan is in the works and will span 3-5 years. *This is not special education specific, this is for ALL learners.*

Transition Self Study:

Caroline Nelson reviewed results of EISD Transition Self-Study (TSS)

A goal was developed: By April 18, 2018, in order to increase student involvement in their IEP meetings, we will develop resources aligned with SDSI quality practices that can be shared with stakeholders for the purpose of implementation, to include:

- 1) A reach-out to parents about our new student-led IEP project (parent survey)
- 2) Stakeholder survey (staff, parent, student) to learn more about current practices, experience and needs (parent survey + staff survey; determined student needs will come out while doing IEP participation rubric)
- 3) A universal (PPCD-ATS/parent) resource toolkit (I'm determined)

A parent asked about the depth at which the information obtained by TSS is being analyzed and used. What else can we pull from the data to help us determine where to go from here?

A discussion also arose around providing more clarity and helping parents better understand the transition process.

*There was a recommendation to have a college fair for students with cognitive disabilities or at least ask the colleges to bring representatives from their IDD programs if they have those programs.

Other Topics:

*Parliamentary procedures was mentioned - approving minutes, sharing with Board. There seemed to be a consensus this was a good idea.

Selection of Working Group Project(s):

Molly shared that with the audit/program evaluation there will be focus groups. We SPWG members need to get everyone to participate and give feedback. What are we going to do to get the word out? A parent mentioned reaching out and meeting with other parents in the community so that we can truly represent other parents/bring information to SPWG and share.

Inclusion:

There was a lengthy group discussion about meaningful inclusion/planning for school events. There was discussion about a team that already exists on one campus to support inclusion involving sped teacher, sped student, booster club president, gen ed teacher, gen ed student, head of Equality Club and a sped parent.

It was noted that work that is done by one parent on a campus during a given year is not often sustainable. There was some frustration that the “wheel keeps getting reinvented.” Documents for certain events that have been created are sometimes not shared.

The group discussed the need for more clubs and event for students with disabilities and the importance of trying to systematize these things across campuses or district. The parents felt this needs to be administratively driven. Molly agreed to help support this. It was mentioned that students should be included in organizations such as NJHS and NHS to honor students for their accomplishments. Students should be honored both at the school and district level.

We all agreed that there is momentum in this district and we need to keep it going!!!

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Minutes taken by Maggie Suter

Edited by Molly May