



Bloomfield Hills PAC Parent Meeting – October 22, 2019

Over 30 parents within BHSD, as well as BHSD administration (Jennifer Perrone and Trevor Harker) attended and discussed the following agenda:

Welcome & Introductions

PAC Purpose

PAC Structure & Goal Setting

Disability Awareness Day

Future Meetings

Dismiss

SUPPORT

- Autistic student support group. OU cares has this for (Rochester and North).
 - Autistic kids get each other
 - Social challenges get harder as they get older
- Kid Connections. It would be amazing to have time for kids to come together.
 - Middle School has 3 buildings. Bring the kids together across buildings
 - Kids creating imaginary friends.
- Support within the buildings
- Peer Mentors
 - Buddy within the school
 - Lunch buddies
 - Older school mentor
 - Interactions in the school setting, very meaningful experience
 - General Education run events for Special Education Students
 - Jennifer – starting peer to peer program (starting next year at the high school). Staff training next week. Buildings trickle down after that. Kids always respond to other kids.
- List of resources, dr. therapist, summer camps, after school programs, babysitters, sports (extra support at sporting events)
- We need more family events. (think private school model)
- Eastover has ARP and DHH. Can we cross pollinate these kids in the same building?
- Overall, we need to increase exposure to kids with physical disabilities
- Bring Wing Lake to us.
 - Invite Wing Lake kids to after school activities (ex: Pumpkin night)
 - This gives people the opportunity to socialize. (How do you talk to this child?)



COLLABORATION

- Eastover did “celebrate differences” – how can we do this across the district?
- Accessible Camps (Nature Center & Farm)
- Collaboration with all district groups, (GET, etc)
- PAC person at all PTOC meetings
- Collaboration in the neurotypical world

REPRESENTATION

- Shortcuts and Tutorials for information provided by Oakland Schools
- How can the Social Emotional Wellness team and Special education team connected?
 - Would like to make sure we connect the dots
- General Ed teachers could help and resources
 - Subscriptions to ADDMagazine or membership to CHADD
- Staff understanding of our students.
 - (ex: Unified Arts teachers are not tied to 1 school, Lunch Support staff).
- Paraprofessionals spend so much time with our students. Can they be invited to the IEP meetings?
- Friendship Circle camp counselors (went to training) –Learned what it is like to have a challenge. Can we get this for Parents and Teachers?
- PAC representatives should be involved in all of the ongoing Bloomfield Hills Committees. (ex: GET, Start Time, ect). How do we get on these committees?
 - Strategic Plan (Equity doesn’t include students with disabilities, only Culture and Race.

ADVOCACY & TRAINING

- Would like to learn more about what Michigan Alliance for Families can offer
- Staff Training
- Assistive Technology – who does it well?
- Can we create a PAC list serve?
- Transitions Services (Jennifer Perrone)
- OU Cares does structured things for kids with Autism (Social interaction) Arrange for speaker from OU cares.
 - Suha Al-Oballi Kridli has connections
- Community Engagement
- List of Acronyms
- Integration of families. Do things for parents and the kids.
 - Rent a hall and cater food
- Speakers on the sibling side of things. Super Sibs.



- Celebrate successes / Share the wins. Teacher had class write about kids who have siblings with special needs.
- Eastover Celebrate Differences – what is going on at one school should be going on at all buildings. How can we promote this?
 - All student will roll up to the same high school. Not all students will come with the same experiences.
- Training for newbies on the websites (PAC group & special education tab)
 - We could create a document and hand to parents along with procedural safeguards
- Put together written format for someone new to the special education process.
 - What kind of resources to provide to parents?

DISABILITIES AWARENESS WORKSHOP

- Make a whole day of it next year
- Use Eastover's "Celebrate Differences" as a blueprint
 - Video's, kids being a part of it. Make it personal.
- What is the outcome?
 - (to help, then DAW format, if empathy, visit Wing Lake)
 - Trip to Wing Lake is like trip to the Zoo. Not good!
- Parents are responsible to reflect with the kids
- How can we have the 4th grade teachers prepare the kids prior to event?
- Reflection Options
 - I am thankful for
 - Accessibility Checklist
 - Architectural Barriers
 - Are you aware
 - Student Evaluation
 - Test your understanding
- Further Enrichment Option
 - Storybook Collection (Media Center specialist reads age appropriate story to each class that week)
- Sample Letter to Parents

On December 9-11, 2019, all 4th grade students will participate in Disability Awareness Day. This program is a hands-on activity based workshop, which will be hosted at the Booth Center.

The main emphasis of this workshop is to help students become more aware and to gain an empathetic understanding of how difficult and complex daily living can be for individuals with disabilities. We want the students to remember that people should be respected no matter how they may look, act, learn, walk, or talk. Everyone has feelings. No one with a disability wants to have someone feel sorry for him.



The students must realize that people with a disability have abilities, too. We must focus on those abilities and not on limitations. We are all different in very special ways.

The students will participate in a wheelchair obstacle course. They will wear glasses that give them momentary vision impairments. Students will speak with an electric larynx and type in Braille. They will experience several reading disabilities. The program also includes a handicapped accessibility activity and many story books.

Disability Awareness Day is like a field trip. Please consider volunteering to be with your child on this day. We need about 25 parents to help us per session. This will be a meaningful experience for you and your child.

OTHER

- Fundraising idea. Host a Trunk or Treat (high school parking lot). \$10 per family goes toward special education
- Special Education staff recognition
- Kim Hamp wants to be a building rep for West Hills Middle School