

Special Education Parent Working Group (SPWG)

Meeting Minutes

Date: 09/16/21 at 11:30 AM via Zoom

Present: Molly May
Matt Zemo
Susan Stotzer
Amanda Boardman
Catherine Walker
Rhonda Stout
Suzanne Wilson
Tabitha Rose
Tim Oates
Traci Lepak

Introductions

Molly May and Matt Zemo both introduced themselves and described how they got involved in special education at Eanes. All the parents in attendance introduced themselves, described their children's involvement in special education, listed which Eanes schools their children attend, and included why they were interested in joining the SPWG.

Overview of SPWG

Molly went over the SPWG purpose, composition, roles, responsibilities, and group norms. This information can be found attached to the email Molly sent to the group on 8/31/21 when she offered all new members a position in the group. In addition, the SPWG purpose and composition can be found online here: <https://www.eanesisd.net/dept/sped/parents/spwg>.

Campus Liaison Assignments

Molly explained that parent SPWG members would be asked to be campus liaisons and went over the campus assignment of each parent. All the parents in attendance agreed to their campus assignments.

Elementary Schools

Traci Lepak, Barton Creek Elementary
Sadia Ali, Barton Creek Elementary
Catherine Walker, Bridgepoint Elementary
Amanda Boardman, Cedar Creek Elementary
Jennifer Bhagwanjee, Eanes Elementary

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Tim Oates, Forest Trail Elementary

Laura Avery, Valley View

Middle Schools

Suzanne Wilson, Hill Country Middle

Tabitha Rose, Hill Country Middle

Susan Stotzer, West Ridge Middle

Rosa Burns, West Ridge Middle

High School

Rhonda Stout, Westlake High

Laura Avery, Westlake High

Molly explained that the email addresses of the parent campus liaisons would be provided so that other special education parents can contact campus liaisons with questions or concerns. (If you do not want your email address to be provided, let Molly know.)

Selection of Secretary

A request for a group secretary was made, and Susan Stotzer volunteered to be the group's secretary and take the minutes of each meeting.

Board Presentation Overview

In the spring of 2019, the Eanes ISD Board of Trustees engaged the services of Stetson & Associates to perform a review of the Special Education Department. This review/audit resulted in a report outlining recommendations both for continued practices and for new or improved processes and procedures.

The report can be found attached to the email Molly sent to the group on 9/13/21 with the subject line "2021-22 Special Education Parent Working Group". (The report will also be available at <https://www.eanesisd.net/dept/sped/program-evaluation>.)

Action Item: Molly asked everyone to review the documents that she attached to her 9/13/21 email and include any questions about the report or action plans at the next SPWG meeting.

Update on Action Plan

An action plan was developed by the SPWG and includes Stetson's recommendations along with stakeholder feedback. The board is periodically updated on the action plan.

TEA Cyclical Review

Once every 6 years, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) selects a district to be audited. Eanes was selected for the audit and was found to be 100% compliant.

Possible Fundraising

Molly proposed the possibility of the SPWG hosting a community event in the spring.

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Matt talked about some new inclusive programs that are underway. He explained that although the Best Buddy Program probably has enough funding for their t-shirt redesign, two other new inclusive programs still need fundraising:

- Unified Robotics
- Westlake High School Spirit Team

Molly clarified that although many of the inclusive initiatives were started at the high school, the intention is to transition them to the elementary and middle schools also. It is easier to start them at the high-school level, because then the programs could be student-driven, requiring less parental involvement, especially at a time when parents were not permitted inside the schools because of covid.

Action Item: Matt asked everyone to think about fundraising opportunities for the new inclusive initiatives.

Questions and Answers

Suzanne asked who the administrators were for the SPWG Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/EISDSPWG>

Molly May and Maggie Suter (a former SPWG member) are the administrators of that Facebook page.

Next Meeting

10/12/21 at 11:30 AM via Zoom

<https://eanesisd.zoom.us/j/81352899132?pwd=MVZQL2xvd1ZJSDVLYy9iOXBKYnlxQT09>

Meeting ID: 813 5289 9132

Passcode: 235625