

Special Education Parent Working Group (SPWG)

Meeting Minutes

Date: 04/05/22 at 11:30 AM at Eanes Administration Bldg

Present: Molly May
Matt Zemo
Susan Stotzer
Rhonda Stout
Suzanne Wilson
Traci Lepak
Tim Oates
Laura Avery

Best Buddies Friendship Walk

Sarah Ofczarzak, Tucker Thompson, and Rusty Tolliver attended our meeting to talk about the Best Buddies Friendship Walk on **Saturday, May 7, from 10 AM to 3 PM at Westlake High School's Chaparral Stadium**. Sarah Ofczarzak is the educational partner for the Eanes special education department. Tucker Thompson is the program manager and Rusty Tolliver is the area director for Best Buddies in the Austin area.

The Best Buddies Friendship Walk will have a festival atmosphere. The first hour will be about registration and warming up for the walk. The warmup will be led by an all-abilities dance troupe. The actual walk will start at 11 AM. Participants can walk around the track as many times as they would like and socialize along the way. There will be live music, food trucks, sponsorship tables, and backyard-style games. The "We are the Chorus" group, which includes individuals with disabilities, from the Armstrong Music School will perform, and the Westlake Spirit Team will be in attendance too. Remember to bring sun protection!

When you sign up, you can register as part of the Eanes team. Or, if you want to set up your own team, consider including something at the front of your team name that indicates your school name or district. That way, the Best Buddies national organization will see our involvement, which can result in our area getting additional funding from Best Buddies.

Here is the link to register: <https://www.bestbuddiesfriendshipwalk.org/centraltexas/>

Inclusive Extra-Curricular Activities

Eanes is committed to creating unified extra-curricular activities for all our students. The inclusive Westlake High School Spirit Team has been a huge success, and the creation of a unified softball team is already underway. Parents in the special education community will be receiving an online survey to gauge which sports are of the most interest and to determine how many parents will be able to volunteer to help make these teams a success. Volunteer coaches will be critical to the success of this initiative.