

Orono Special Education Parent Partnership Committee (SEPPC)
Meeting Minutes: 02/21/2020, 1:00-2:00

Members in attendance: Andrea Combs, Cindy Brown Polson, Kristi Flesher, Corinna Graner, Peter Keers, Ali Howe, Emily Bremner Forbes

The meeting began with introductions of all SEPPC members. The team welcomed Ali Howe as a first time member.

Kristi Flesher updated the group on SEL work. We have gathered all data, looked at all students, and every student identified is in an intervention.

We have groups looking at what is included on report cards. We are working on what should be there, ex: social emotional skills. We would like parent's opinions on what they want to see on report card for social emotional skills. Some social emotional skills on report card might be: anxiety, participation in class....etc.

Character Counts is a tier 1 intervention and we now have over 75 staff members trained.

Cindy Brown-Polson explained the theory of mind concept. This is an area of difficulty for autistic children.

Maya Van Driel & Kate Cichomski spoke about how they teach mindfulness in the classroom. Items discussed included; videos, positivity boxes, calming jars, journaling, zones of regulation, size of problem vs. size of reaction, and zones of regulation.

Kate & Maya explained the growth mindset. There was also a reminder that we should praise children for their effort rather than accomplishment. This creates a growth mindset in kids. "I can't do this." vs "I can't do this yet."

There was time for parents to ask questions and give input. The members were curious as to how we could get information out to them about what strategies their students are learning in the classroom. We may implement a quarterly newsletter.

Executive functioning will be discussed at the next meeting on Friday, April 17th from 1-2pm in the District Office Assembly Room.

Members will be asked if they would like to attend meetings remotely.