

Special Education Parent Partnership Committee Meeting Minutes

10/11/2019

1:00 –2:00

Members Present: Kristi Flesher, Carla Garnica, Cindy Brown Polson, Peter Keers, Dick Lewis, Corinna Graner, Iris Erickson, Ericka Ronnings, Emily Bremmer Forbes.

The meeting began with Special Services Department updates. Kristi Flesher provided an overview of newly hired staff. She then continued to provide an overview of the Special Services Themes over the past five years, and the focus of social/emotional learning for staff and how staff extends that learning to teaching students. Topics such as Purpose, Youth Frontier trainings, Trauma and most recently Vicarious Trauma have been topics for Special Services Staff over the past few years. Ms. Flesher explained Dr. Clay Cooks Ingredients for Educational Resilience, Dr. Char Myklebust's recent staff education on strong emotions and happiness, and teaching resiliency in adults and students.

The meeting continued to discuss the Alternative Delivery of Services and Instructional Supports (ADSIS) programming in Orono Schools. Beth Pearson shared a brief overview of the tiered levels of supports for students in Orono. How students are identified as requiring additional academic/reading supports and Tier 3 level interventions. The group discussed the positive outcomes for students over time as a result of ADSIS supports in place. Additionally, Dr. Julie Nelson and Brooke Hardman joined to discuss their role in developing and implementing ADSIS social emotional supports for students K-5 beginning this year.

Items for feedback and discussion related to future meeting topics, or larger group trainings relating to Vicarious Trauma and resiliency for parents. The group brainstormed ideas relating to how best identify and group K-5 students in to social/emotional supports. They discussed implementing a social/emotional screener for students in k-5 to identify students with specific social/emotional needs and received feedback relating to how parents may feel relating to use of a screener or other alternatives.

Lastly, We Thank Dick Lewis for his many years of commitment and service to the Orono School District and community. We also thank Lee Rutherford for her years of supporting students and staff across all levels within the Orono District and sharing her expertise for the benefit for all students.