

Special Education Parent Partnership Committee Meeting Minutes

12/4/2020

1:00-2:00

Members present: Kristi Flesher, Corinna Graner, Aaron Ruhland, Emily Bremner-Forbes, Aimee Libby, Peter Keers, Ericka Ronnings, Molly Meyer, Erica Swenson, Robin Gipson, Andrea Combs, Iris Erickson, Ali Howe, and guest; Brittany Peterson

The meeting began with an introduction by Corinna Graner. The agenda was reviewed and Kristi Flesher talked about the shift in learning models. All grade levels at Orono moved to distance learning by December 1st. Dr. Flesher also shared that 80 to 90% of students with IEPs are now distance learners.

Students who struggled last Spring are being served on campus in small groups throughout the week. Students are coming to campus for a variety of reasons be it SpEd/ELL/homelessness/reading intervention. Dr. Flesher reiterated that parents have been amazing and Orono is trying to balance safety and education. She also shared that looking across districts, most are bringing in small groups of students for learning.

Dr. Flesher then introduced school psychologists Molly Meyer and Ericka Ronnings who shared a presentation on executive function. We use these skills every day to learn, work, and manage daily life. Molly and Ericka shared that challenges with executive function can make it difficult to focus, follow directions, and handle emotions.

Executive function is a set of mental skills that include; working memory, response inhibition, emotional control, sustained attention, task initiation, planning/organization, goals, and flexibility. Schumann Elementary special education teacher, Brittany Peterson, discussed executive function in elementary aged students and how she teaches it in her classroom.

The presentation lasted until the end of the meeting and it was decided we will continue with the topic of executive function at our next SEPPC meeting on Friday, February 19th, 2021. This meeting will be held from 1:00-2:00pm via Google Meet.