

Special Education Parent Partnership Committee Meeting Minutes

02/19/2021

1:00-2:00

Members Present: Corinna Graner, Emily Bremner-Forbes, Aimee Libby, Ali Howe, Andrea Combs, Molly Meyer, Robin Gipson, Peter Keers, Donna Marget, Bonnie Johnson, Ericka Ronnings, and guest; Brittany Peterson

The meeting began with an introduction of the new interim Special Services Coordinators: Bonnie Johnson & Donna Marget. Donna & Bonnie have both worked in Coordinator roles in the Wayzata School District for many years and are excited to return to support the Orono Special Services department during our time of transition. Donna Marget worked as the Early Childhood Special Education Coordinator and mental health lead, as well as crisis leader for her 30 plus year career. She was originally trained as a school social worker and has been instrumental in developing mental health supports for students in Hennepin County. Bonnie Johnson was the secondary schools Coordinator at Wayzata for special education, working at Middle, High School and transition buildings for 30 plus years as well. She worked originally as a speech language pathologist. We are incredibly fortunate that Donna and Bonnie have recently retired and are willing to assist us all in this time period.

Brittany Peterson continued her presentation from the last meeting on executive function. Some of the topics she touched on included:

- Working memory
 - Establishing eye contact is very important (eyes are like arrows - what you're looking at you're thinking about)
- Response inhibition
 - Accuracy & doing it right is more important than speed
 - Tell what TO do not what NOT to do
- Emotional control
- Sustained attention
 - Useful apps - visual shade clock / sand timer
- Planning & organization
- Goals
- Flexibility
 - Teaching a growth mindset

Here are some resources for teaching executive function:

[Smart but Scattered Teens: The "Executive Skills" Program for Helping Teens Reach Their Potential](#)

[Smart but Scattered: The Revolutionary "Executive Skills" Approach to Helping Kids Reach Their Potential](#)

[360 Thinking Time Tracker](#)

[Sand Timer](#)

The meeting was then opened up for feedback. Members shared that they really enjoyed the presentation on executive function and how the information can be used at all levels.

The next meeting will be Friday, April 16th at 1pm via google meets.