

Special Education Parent Partnership Committee Meeting Minutes

04/16/2021

1:00-2:00

Members Present: Corinna Graner, Kristi Flesher, Emily Bremner-Forbes, Aimee Libby, Ali Howe, Andrea Combs, Molly Meyer, Robin Gipson, Bonnie Johnson, Erica Swenson, Iris Erickson

The meeting began with a welcome by Corinna Graner and an overview of the agenda.

Kristi Flesher gave an update on ADSIS. ADSIS stands for alternative delivery of specialized instructional services and we have multiple staff members under this role: Tina Dickinson, Lindsay Lappi, Brooke Hardman etc. ADSIS reduces the need for a referral to special education. It provides K-8 literacy support and mental health support. We will be adding Jen Lubke from the Middle School to ADSIS and she will be running executive function groups. ADSIS has significantly reduced the number of reading referrals in the last 6 years. The grant approval decision for this is in July. There is also a federal grant for chemical dependency and mental health available this year. This grant would be for up to \$125,000 a year for up to 10 years. We should find out about both of these grants this summer.

Next, the meeting was opened up to a reflection on the past year.

Teachers shared that they have learned so many new strategies for the classroom and ways to keep kids engaged. Teachers try to keep in mind that kids (at elementary level) need time to play and have reciprocal conversations. They are also learning how to tweak classroom day because kids have different screen thresholds.

Parents & teachers shared that the following worked well during the past year:

- Asynchronous work time has been great.
- Transitioning back from distance to in-person went really well.
- Having so many different ways to access information has been great.
- Mental health support has been wonderful.
- Parents would like distance learning as an option for the future.
- Parents & teachers have been surprised at the resiliency of students throughout the school year.
- This year highlighted the needed collaboration between teachers & parents.

Some suggestions that parents & teachers shared:

- Middle schoolers tend to show themselves more on google meets whereas high schoolers are much more reluctant to show their faces and in doing so, there is less social engagement.
 - Instead of a social group zoom that you need to join separately, can teachers integrate this time into their instruction?
- The play sense in middle school is not translated into high school. Is there a way to add that light/playful nature into high school?
- When students are online & the rest of class is in person, it sometimes feels like there is not as much engagement with that distance learning student.
- Students have different needs from paras throughout the years, may need to implement a training component.

A request was made for topics for next year's meetings. One suggestion was a discussion about the transition program and updating the old brochure. Another suggestion was having a student data meeting.

This was the last meeting for the 2020-2021 school year. Next year's meeting dates will be emailed in the fall of 2021.