

Special Education Parent Partners (SEPP) Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Date: 09/13/22 at 11:30 AM at Eanes Administration Bldg

Present: Matt Zemo
Emily Dunlap
Susan Stotzer
Rhonda Stout
Traci Lepak
Laura Avery
Tabitha Rose
Lana Bernberg
Cristal Carrasco
Angela Davis
Chris Hanson
Vaidehee Gokhale

Special Education Working Group (SPWG) → Special Education Parent Partners (SEPP)

The Special Education Working Group (SPWG) has been renamed to the Special Education Parent Partners (SEPP) group to better reflect the partnership that committee members have with Eanes administration.

SEPP Members and Campus Assignments

The Special Education Parents Partners group is made up of about a dozen parents of students receiving special education services in Eanes ISD. These parents have campus assignments, so that they can receive and share information from the special education department with their parent communities. Here are the campus assignments:

Elementary Schools

Vaidehee Gokhale, Barton Creek
Chris Hanson, Cedar Creek/Bridge Point
Angela Davis, Cedar Creek
Cristal Carrasco, Eanes Elementary
Tim Oates, Forest Trail
Lana Bernberg, Valley View

Middle Schools

Traci Lepak, West Ridge
Tabitha Rose, Hill Country

High School

Susan Stotzer, Westlake

Rhonda Stout, Westlake

Adult Transition Services (ATS)

Laura Avery, ATS

In addition to the parent representatives, Matt Zemo (Director of Special Education) and Emily Dunlap (Assistant Director of Special Education) are members of the SEPP committee.

District Initiatives Review / Update

Mission & Goals: Upholding the value of special education is one of our school board's listed priorities. Here is the language the school board uses:

"Uphold the value of Special Education

- Analyze and allocate resources, staff and instructional delivery models to promote efficiency within the special education program to ensure growth of students with disabilities
- Expand curricular resources, research-based instructional strategies and assessment tools to enhance learning opportunities to ensure growth of students with disabilities
- Address recommendations in the Special Education Department Action Plan
- Provide opportunities in all extra and co-curricular activities for students with disabilities"

More information about the Eanes school board's priorities can be found here:

<https://www.eanesisd.net/district/goals>

Staffing Update: Eanes is currently (as of Sept 2022) fully staffed with all professional positions in special education. There are fewer than 10 teaching assistant positions in special education that are still needing to be filled across the entire district. To fill these positions quickly, Eanes has expanded their interview process from a Spring/Summer focus to becoming a year-round, on-going process.

Parent Partners Initiatives

SEPP members are encouraged to attend the following:

- Meet & Mingle on 9/23
- Progression meetings that will be held on their school campuses to be available to answer questions for parents. Here's a tentative schedule for the progression meetings:
 - ECSE to Kindergarten – Jan/Feb 2023
 - 5th to 6th – Jan/Feb 2023

Special Education Parent Partners (SEPP) Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Page 3

- 8th to 9th – Jan/Feb 2023
- 12th to Adult Transition Services (ATS) – Nov/Dec 2022
- Best Buddies Friendship Walk on April 15, 2023.

Action Items for all SEPP members:

- Ideas for parent training topics. Vaidehee suggested we present instruction on topics such as what Collab teachers do for both parents of students in special education and for parents of students who are exclusively in general education, so everyone can understand how Collab teachers benefit all students.
- Ideas for a fall or spring event:
 - Matt suggested a special education documentary.
 - Laura suggested inviting young adults who used special education services when they were at Eanes to return to speak to parents about their experiences in college or the workplace.

Upcoming Events

- Café Series – Campus Conversations: <https://www.eanesisd.net/cafeseries>
- Topical Town Halls: <https://www.eanesisd.net/cafeseries/topical-town-halls>
- Special Education Update with School Board on November 1
- Destination Life Transition Fair – March 2023

Next Meeting

10/18/22 at 11:30 AM at Eanes Administration Building at 1601 Camp Craft Road 78746.