

# Special Education Parent Partners (SEPP) Meeting

## Meeting Minutes

Date: 11/08/22 at 11:30 AM at Eanes Administration Bldg

Present: Matt Zemo  
Emily Dunlap  
Susan Stotzer  
Traci Lepak  
Lana Bernberg  
Laura Avery  
Vaidehee Gokhale

### Check-In and Updates

**Best Buddies Update:** Sarah Ofczarzak (Eanes special education educational partner) attended the meeting to provide an update on what is happening with Best Buddies, specifically at the elementary level. Best Buddies is now on all of Eanes' campuses. There are approximately 180 members of Best Buddies at all 6 elementary schools. Best Buddies looks different on the elementary school level than it does on the secondary school level. Instead of a peer-to-peer match, elementary school Best Buddies meet and get together as groups. The elementary schools are hoping to have monthly meet-ups for Best Buddies, such as "lunch bunches", and are considering a district-wide event that all 6 elementary campuses would participate in.

### Parent-to-Parent Connections

**Introductory Letters:** All peer partners should update their letters of introduction by **Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>** using the template that Matt provided. The letters will be distributed to the parents of special education students on their respective campuses.

**Meet Ups on Campus:** The idea of organizing in-person gatherings for parents of special education students on each campus was further discussed with the caveat that whether these events occur is up to each campus' parent partner. These events may happen on or off campus, and parent partners can contact Matt to discuss possible funding for these events.

**District Communication:** Susan brought up the issue of some groups of parents who have not been receiving information about initiatives, such as unified robotics or unified softball, in a timely manner. Special education parents should receive automated emails from Skyward or from their case manager about initiatives. Initiatives are also posted on the Eanes special education web site, the Facebook page, and in the newsletters from campus principals. Ensuring that parents receive communications that are appropriate to them in a timely manner is an on-going issue that Matt and Emily will investigate.

### Other Issues Raised

Lana volunteered to meet with Matt and Emily to provide suggestions on updating the Eanes special education web site. They are considering forming a subcommittee to focus on the web site, which

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anyone who is interested in providing feedback can join.

Vaidehee brought up the issue of ensuring classroom collab teachers and aids are recognized in addition to teachers when booster clubs and campus leadership teams are organizing teacher gifts and recognition.

#### Parent Partners Initiatives

SEPP members are encouraged to attend the following:

- 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
  - 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> – Jan/Feb 2023
  - 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> – Jan/Feb 2023
  - 12<sup>th</sup> to Adult Transition Services (ATS) – Nov/Dec 2022
- Best Buddies Friendship Walk on April 15, 2023.

#### Upcoming Events

- Best Buddies Champion of the Year – Nov 17, 2022
- Café Series – Campus Conversations: <https://www.eanesisd.net/cafeseries>
- Topical Town Halls: <https://www.eanesisd.net/cafeseries/topical-town-halls>
- Destination Life Transition Fair – March 2023

#### Next Meeting

1/17/23 at 11:30 AM at Eanes Administration Building at 1601 Camp Craft Road 78746. (No meeting in December.)