

Special Education Parent Partners (SEPP) Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Date: 02/14/23 at 11:30 AM at Eanes Administration Bldg

Present: Matt Zemo
Emily Dunlap
Kevin Percival
Susan Stotzer
Traci Lepak
Rhonda Stout
Angela Davis
Laura Avery
Vaidehee Gokhale

Department Updates

Intent Forms: Intent forms have been sent to current special education staff to determine whether they want to remain in their current positions for the next school year. This information will assist in determining hiring needs for the next school year (2023-24).

Hiring for 2023-24 School Year: Between 5 and 7 candidates have been secured for special education positions next school year. One special education teaching position and two teacher aid positions remain open. Candidates are being interviewed for those positions now.

Two University of Texas graduates are starting a UT-to-Eanes hiring program to help ensure that UT graduates are aware of Eanes when applying to local school districts.

Student Advancement Meetings: Matt and Emily and the special education campus coordinators are currently meeting with teachers to determine the needs of every Eanes student in special education, including Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) and Adult Transition Services (ATS). In all, they will discuss the needs of more than 800 students! These student advancement meetings (also called projection meetings) help Eanes staff communicate and determine future needs, such as the special things a student's next teacher should know to help that student succeed.

Parent-to-Parent Connections

Introductory Letters: Letters introducing special education parent partners have been emailed to the parents of special education students on their respective campuses by their case managers. Next year, Matt and Emily will ensure that case managers let parent partners know when these emails go out by either emailing the parent partners their own letter or sending them a separate email. Each parent partner's introductory letter and contact information is also available at: <https://www.eanesisd.net/dept/sped/parents/partners>

Meet Ups on Campus: Several parent partners have already organized in-person gatherings for the parents of students using special education services on their campus. Angela Davis organized one

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for Cedar Creek Elementary, Lana Bernberg for Valley View Elementary, and Vaidehee Gokhale hosted one for Barton Creek Elementary School. A gathering for the parents of Westlake High School students and Adult Transition Services parents is in the works.

Other Topics Discussed

PC Pals: Vaidaher presented an update on the PC Pals program, which is a community outreach program that her company, Intel, is starting with Barton Creek Elementary fifth-grade, collaborative-learning students. Over fifty Intel employees volunteered for the program, so a second classroom of students was added to the 8-week project. The Intel employees, who will all go through two different types of background checks, will act as mentors for the students in the form of email pen pals.

Sibling Saturday: Rhonda suggested that another Sibling Saturday be organized for the siblings of Eanes students who are in special education. In the past, Sibling Saturday was held at Adult Transition Services where the kids played games and were encouraged to talk about what it was like for them to have a sibling who was in need of special education services.

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 the questions of incoming parents. Here's the schedule for the remaining progression meetings for this school year:
 - 5th to 6th – Monday, Feb 27, at 9 AM via Zoom
 - 8th to 9th – Friday, Feb 24, at 9 AM via Zoom
- Best Buddies Friendship Walk on April 15. **Volunteers for the walk are needed.** Contact Laura Avery to volunteer.

Upcoming Events

- Café Series – Campus Conversations: <https://www.eanesisd.net/cafeseries>
- Destination...Life Transition Fair – March 4 at McNeil High School

Next Meeting

4/4/23 at 11:30 AM at Eanes Administration Building at 1601 Camp Craft Road 78746.