

Special Education Parent Partnership Committee Meeting Minutes  
February 10, 2023

Present: Emily Bremner Forbes, Erica Lammers, Kim King, Tiffany Clifton, Jacqi Schultz, Molly Meyer, Ericka Ronnings, Ali Howe, Erin Murray, Erica Swenson, and Ann Werdel

Introductions by all. Molly Meyer welcomes all and introduces the Community Education (CE) team, Tiffany Clifton, and Kim King. Tiffany shares the program from last year as a sample of classes and how to navigate the brochure. Classes are similar year over year. The philosophy of the summer program is shared. Academics and character building are woven throughout the programming. The team works to ensure that the team has strong partnerships with parents to build success. There are a wide variety of program offerings.

Kim King shared where the summer programming is offered, discussing the geographic locations, how the community is involved – utilizing local parks and other community events. Kim also discussed the electronic version of the catalog and how the preview and registration begins. The programs typically fill quickly. In fact, last year they had 800 enrollments in one day. There is a one week preview before registration and then it will open up to all. The popularity of certain classes were discussed. Some are academic and some are recreational. Opportunities for families can be online or at the office in the education link. Call-ins are also welcome. The camp calendar shows a week by week guide. It will be available electronically this year. Tiffany Clifton noted that the electronic calendar has been a useful tool for families in the past and they know that it's important to families. They are bringing this tool to families in a variety of ways this year.

Spartan Kids opens in March and starts with existing families and then it is opened up to new families. Spartan Kids blends with Community Education and therefore the kids can connect with additional students in a variety of ways. A question was asked about how high schoolers can be included in the offerings of classes. The community education team discussed ways of incorporating an interest for high schoolers, and how challenging it is. They have tried to find ways. Tiffany shared the pilot program partnership with Haven Homes and high school students technical assistance. The goal is for students to drive their interest is student-led. It begins with student presentations and then expands in other ways. Genna Torney is working on these programs and is always looking for ways to engage the high school youth.

A typical day/week slide is shared and explains the week long camp format, which is typically Monday through Thursday. Students sign up and will have different locations, different teachers, and if the student is doing a variety of camps, locations and teachers will change. Drop-off and pick-up can be Morning, or Afternoon or all-day with lunch. The kids can develop new passions and skills when trying something new. Schedules vary depending on what is selected. Students will have a variety of teachers. There is also an opportunity to meet other students from different schools, as the program is open to all districts. Tiffany Clifton explained

that some students will come in that are visiting from other states. This is a great way for students to make new friends.

How does the district partner? Staff collaboration for special education students was initiated more so last year to ensure how to best support students. The teachers / case manager can help parents choose a camp that would be a good fit based on the students needs. A parent asked the question how to connect the case managers with community education to build a great partnership that will help the student to make the best fit. Erica Swenson outlined how it helped with last year's program. Framework provided by the case worker could help build scaffolding to build success for the student. There was some discussion on how this works, and it is a fairly new initiative.

Summer registration uses vendors to partner with and at times this can be challenging for gauging what exactly the staff will look like in these situations. A parent asked how we could get the information - is there a way to communicate with the parents of special education students to inform them the best way to navigate the offerings.

The questionnaire that was used last year for the first time was shared. This helps get information about students that will help the staff and asks for thoughts and feedback on this. Molly noted that parents who filled it out gave information to the staff that was very helpful due to the fact that there is a misconception that the student files are shared with the Community Education team. A parent asked for a checkbox to be added for "my student has an IEP" or "my student has a 504" plan. OR "please make us aware of any information that we would find helpful".

A parent asked about ESY. Molly Meyer shared that ESY is individualized for every student. ESY works closely with Community Education programs to serve the students in ESY while they attend summer camps. How do you meet criteria with ESY? There are three ways to meet: regression, self-sufficiency, and a unique need part of the IEP. The topic of training Community Education staff was discussed, especially in situations where high school students are employed to work with the kids. Training is done for all employees. Even when staff is on the young side of employment, this can be an advantage of kids mentoring kids. Kim King discussed how high school students are recruited for ages 15+. There were over 7000 enrollments last summer – the highest number ever. Staffing is important and they are always looking for employees.

Relate Partnership for Camp Emoji with Relate Counseling. Last year it was a free camp. Hopefully it will be free or reduced-fee this year. Relate is our school-based mental health component and it's not specific to special education. An addition was recently made to increase support. The camp had a lot of great feedback. Executive functioning was discussed.

Community Events/Connection: There are programs such as the Playground Park program where the kids can play games in the park. There are organized group games where peer relationships are strengthened. Supporting our Spartans is a support group looking at different

topics for all and is open and free. Examples were given; Yoga in the park, Art in the park, Pop in and Read. These are all free for the community. It was noted that last year Llamas were part of the Pop in and Read program at the park.

Questions and feedback: Molly Meyer thanked the Community Education team and the group for participating.

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