



SE Parent Partners NOTES

September 26, 2023
Central Administration Board Room

Attendees: Matt Zemo, Emily Dunlap, Lindsey Gauci, Susan Stotzer, Vaidehee Gokhale, Krista Jack, Tabitha Rose, Carly Roebuck

Topics

Introductions and Campus Assignments

District Initiatives & BOY Activities

- Overview of Parent Partners & [Mission & Goals](#)
- Review Beginning of Year Activities
 - ◆ Case Managers were provided with 1 paid day, prior to their contract time, in order to work on special education-specific case management duties and get a jumpstart on contacting parents, setting up data collection, and supporting student needs through IEP review
 - ◆ New to Eanes special education staff were provided with an opportunity to come for a full day of SPED 101 training with the campus coordinators and educational partners prior to the start of their contract. The overwhelming majority of them took advantage of this opportunity.
 - ◆ During all staff professional development, the special education department held a Special Education Day for all SPED teachers to engage in learning specific to their role as special educators and develop camaraderie as a district-wide department.
 - ◆ ATS held an Open House event in conjunction with the Westlake Chamber of Commerce in order to showcase what ATS is about and to develop partnerships with community businesses to support the mission and goals of our program.
 - ◆ Best Buddies Chapters, Unified Activities, and Special Olympics are all off to a strong start across the district. Parent partners shared concern for getting the word out about what inclusive opportunities are and what it means for general education counterparts, as general education participation is low - especially at the secondary level.
 - ◆ Staffing Update was provided. Special education is staffed in all professional positions, with 1 teaching vacancy and a handful of teaching assistant positions, which is great in

comparison to our neighboring districts. Matt and Emily are continuously hiring all year long and work hard to make sure positions are filled and students are receiving great services.

Parent Partners Initiatives

- Parent Partners should plan to attend the Meet & Mingle on October 5th, if possible
- Dates will be released soon for campus-to-campus transition meetings. Parent partners should try their best to attend their corresponding dates.
 - ◆ ECSE to Kindergarten - January/February 2024
 - ◆ 5th to 6th - January/February 2024
 - ◆ 8th to 9th - January/February 2024
 - ◆ 12th to Adult Transition Services - December 2023
- The Central Texas Best Buddies Friendship Walk will be held for the third year in a row at Westlake Chap Stadium and is scheduled for Saturday, April 20, 2024
- Carly Roebuck attended today's meeting to share opportunities for parents to submit a survey surrounding options for parent training topics. She is working to connect with the community on what trainings they may find beneficial and would like parent partner and district feedback and input. The survey will be shared with SPED families via Skyward.

Follow up

- Explore more tailored opportunities for special education teachers to meet with parents and collaborate specific to special education needs (similar to general teacher conferences)
- Brainstorm ideas for messaging regarding inclusive programming and unified opportunities for general education parents and students; perhaps explore a short video to explain and increase interest
- Explore short video training series for parents who may not have the opportunity to attend in-person trainings or just need a quick refresher on a topic

Upcoming Events:

- ❑ Meet & Mingle - October 5, 2023
- ❑ [Cafe Series - Campus Conversations](#)
- ❑ [Topical Town Halls - TBD](#)
- ❑ [Listening Dinners - Invite Only](#)