SEPAC Minutes 5/16/2024

Attendance:
Noelle Bisinger
Larae Drinkhouse
Nancy Scully
Bridget Bantle
Dennis Bantle
J. Barbieri
Amanda Barbieri
Stacey Augustine
Ilana Ablon
Stephanie Berenato
Kate Gregoire

Start: 6:37PM

Welcome/Introductions

Recap of events since last meeting:
DVRS student presentation-2/20/24
Helped to get the student thinking about post-high school
Mount Ephraim articulation/collaboration (AHS) -3/15/24
Beneficial for teachers and future planning
Spectrum Sports Inclusive Activity Night– March 7th
Thoughts shared about going to the Deptford location or keeping it local
Rock Your Socks for Down Syndrome -March 21st
Inclusive Walk for Acceptance– April 21st
Thanks to all participants and volunteers! Pictures were shared; more photos will be shared
Walk raised $1172 Raised – Autism NJ & CDG Care, NJ
Thoughts about next year keeping fund internally to create beneficial activity for our students
Unified and/or WAVE program to help promote walk next year
Desire to get more community involvement/sponsorship

Autism Acceptance Month -April
Staff wore shirts,ribbons, etc.
CDG Day -May 16th
Wear green!
SEPAC Brochure Brochure 2/1/24

Unified Bowling & Track & Field Information shared by Bridget Bantle

Youth Summit -March 26, 2024

First year of Unified. 18 members more of a practice season

4 unified Track & Field dates. 12 members

Goal to be NJSIA sanctioned to get local competition for both bowling and track

Service project made 11 zitis for Pete's Pantry- Treats on the streets

Unified champion club to get more kids in the building and reach out to elementary schools to do lessons about inclusion and uniqueness and do more service projects and community events / dine and donate

Bridget 26 years of experience to make positive changes for Unified and Audubon

Unified champions begins for grades 7-12

Cherie McNellis Young Athletes Club at Haviland

Unified is sponsored by Special Olympics and partially funded

Our athletes were to the Winter Youth Summit in Lawrenceville NJ to see other HS students to participate in workshops with other unified clubs

Social Media account/ PR account created and video shared

Audubon has admin support of unified sports

We may potentially host a youth summit in Audubon in our future!

Our start of bowling could have influenced Haddonfield's Unified Bowling team to make a connection too in competition

Unified kids are partnering up at the HS level supporting the other teams and students

NJ Special Education Week– March 12-18

Message & Stickers to staff that were made internally at HS

Looking Ahead:

WAVE Program enhancement (AHS)

Dedicated focus to this initiative

Classes and workshops are started and developing

CBI cohort requested from the state to help us enhance the WAVE program

Goals set to increase exposures. Not field trips because this is part of their curriculum

Transition areas are addressed effectively

Career options and readiness

Leisure exposure as well with travel training to help them move independently

Dennis Bantle shared some of the events his students participated in this year such as- animal shelter, make dog treats, Cookies for the staff, Food shopping at Acme, Diner to practice ordering food and eating in others, Merchant Street stores trip to see local jobs in businesses Echelon Fitness tour and job opportunity and fitness opportunity ,Surf Shop every morning for breakfast express and AHS clothing

The more people involved, the better!

Potential for WAVE class to reach out to 6th grader to model behaviors and be together

CBI to automotive training center for a vocational experience occurred this year

CBI and transition components in IEPs will be better addressed

Disappointed with the district coffee stop set up in Media Center due to the bond but it is a future goal!

Would love to have students serve concessions at board meetings

Walk for Acceptance and Inclusion goals for improvement were discussed

Tap into local businesses

Have Sponsor board

Unified or WAVE students to help

Set up dates in September/October to help people plan and layout the year

Walk could have meetings to organize independently or even SEPAC could run independently

Open Discussion:

Parent concerns with Sex Ed and puberty for our special ed students

NJ Health and Phys Ed curriculum standards are covered

Staff (teacher, counselor, nurse, etc.) will address behaviors in school and communicate with parents as well

Blend of both worlds is best

School has been very good at being understanding and handled appropriately

Students have resources to help students understand and educate them on the topic as well as how to handle them so everyone can feel comfortable and safe

Share information to the student's counselor so we can have community learning groups

Local Opportunities/ Resources- **not affiliated with or recommended by APS**.

We Rock the Spectrum-“The Gym for All Kids”

Spectrum Sports-DDD Approved

Camden County disABILITIES & Special Needs Programs

Rowan All Star Sports Clinic (School of Osteopathic Medicine) -co-sponsored by RowanSOM and The Autism Think Tank NJ

The Spot, Station Ave in Haddon Heights

Care Solac

Closing:

Future SEPAC meetings= Zoom meetings

October would be ideal for our first SEPAC meeting next year

Adjourned: 7:45pm