

09/18/2024

## SEPAC Meeting Minutes:

Meeting start at 5:31PM

1 Admin / 5 parents in attendance

Monica is waiting for the principals to get back to her in regards to staffing changes for an updated flowchart. This flowchart will provide contacts for parents to know who to contact, whether it be to schedule a meeting or talk about a concern or questions.

Mary Ott-Dahill is the new special education coordinator (K-3) for the elementary school. Her role is to schedule and run meetings along with handling more of the paperwork for that the special education teachers can spend more time with the students.

Those families with students in Pre-k should still be contacting Shelley Fachini to schedule meetings.

Letter is to go out to families on changes in staffing and contacts. This letter is to go out with the Safeguards. The Safeguard Procedures are always due to go out to families October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Transportation needs to be discussed. There have been several complaints and issues. One concern brought up was the inconsistencies surrounding specialized transportation in the IEP. This section should be talked about with the IEP team. Should specialized transportation be discussed more in depth with the parents to ensure they understand what it entails and if they feel their child is in need of specialized transportation. It was also brought up that one of the SpEd busses takes over an hour for some kids to get home, which can be concerning for kids that may have limited communication or may be more high needs. Aaron Dean is involved with the issues surrounding bussing, but more communication between parents, school admin and Dufour would help.

How can we ensure that teachers are actually reviewing their students IEPs. They do need to sign off through PowerSchool that they have reviewed them, but grace is given in the time that the teachers are expected to complete them and there is no way of tracking if the IEPs were actually reviewed. Parents are at this time still encouraged to reach out to their students' teachers to touch base in regards to their child's IEP.

DESE is due to visit the HVRSD this year. This is a year long visit and Sandra from DESE is due to meet with the district administration sometime in October. Monica will be recommending that Sandra meet with SEPAC, possibly in April, but this is not guaranteed.

The transition from third grade to fourth grade can be hard for our students and their parents. The third grade does make a trip to the middle school toward the end of the year, but students and their families are always welcome during the summer to go up to the school to explore and familiarize themselves with the school prior to the start of the school year. Children will be unable to meet their teachers during the summer, but if they are able to get comfortable with where their classes will be, it may make their transition easier. Communication between elementary school staffing and middle school staffing for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders going into 4<sup>th</sup>.

Parents would like to have another IEP Binder Building event with Andrew. Kristina will touch base with him to get that scheduled.

Parents would also like to have a meeting or event involving speech delays/ non-verbal communication. Monica will touch base with Jillian Smith and Courtney Bopp (school psychologist) for their possible attendance. We hope to get this together for November.

Peabody SEPAC is hosting an event involving DDS- Kristina will post the event page on the HVRSD SEPAC facebook page.

Monica will reach out to the principals to see if they are able to attend the October meeting, Kristina will reach out to support staff to see if some of them will be able to attend.

Next meeting will be held 10/16 at 5:30pm – HVHS library

Meeting end @ 6:28pm