



SE Parent Partners - Notes

Via ZOOM

December 10, 2024 11:30-12:30

Attendees

- Matt Zemo
 - Emily Dunlap
 - Ashley Phillips
 - Vaidehee Gokhale
 - Ashely Buba
 - Meredith Cataldo
 - Meghan Shannon
 - Suzanne Wilson
 - Robert Hines
 - Lindey Gauci
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Parent Partners Updates

- **Best Buddies Holiday Events:** Celebrations are underway across campuses as the semester concludes for the holiday break.
- **Resource Sharing:** A shared folder for Parent Partner resources has been created to foster networking and idea exchange.
- **Academic Data Tracking:** Parents inquired about replacements for GRADE and GMADE academic tracking tools, now discontinued. Ms. Dunlap confirmed the district retains the existing data and is evaluating new tracking products, which will

be shared with families once determined. Parents emphasized maintaining academic rigor for students with disabilities alongside progress in inclusion.

- **Upcoming Family Events:** Plans are in motion for a Family Movie Night in January.
 - **Summer Camp Discussions:** Parents suggested compiling a list of summer camp options for students with special needs to share with the community.
 - **Future Agenda Topics:** Discussions on Best Buddies processes at elementary levels.
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District Highlights

- **Best Buddies Gala:** "Inclusion City Limits" celebrated Eanes' own Will Suter and Livi Fitzgerald as Champions of the Year.
 - **Transition Support - Progression vs. Advancement Meetings:**
 - **Progression Meetings:** Held at key transition years (e.g., ESCE to K, 5 to 6, etc.) for parents and the community. Dates will be shared through email, social media, and newsletters.
 - **Student Advancement Meetings:** Scheduled for spring, involving special education administrators meeting with teachers to discuss student needs, plan staffing, and provide campus support.
 - **IEP Program Systems:** The district is evaluating various IEP systems to ensure they meet the needs of staff, students, and families effectively.
 - **AI Tools:** Exploring the use of artificial intelligence to enhance special education services.
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Key Concerns & Requests

1. **BLEND-Related Issues:**
 - Lack of special education parent partner representation on the BLEND committee.

- Suggestions for more equitable community representation on district committees in the future, to include experienced special education parents
 - Sensory needs concerns for learners related to density in shared spaces like cafeterias, playgrounds, and hallways when looking at blending
 - Potential for breakout meetings or Q&A sessions with SPED administrators
 - Potential for SPED admin/Zemo to attend future BLEND discussions
 - Is there a possibility for rezoning options for families preferring not to attend BLEND campus?
2. **Interpreter Services:** Requests from VVE families for Spanish and ASL interpreters at all meetings to ensure full participation.
3. How is the district supporting staff during the BLEND process to make sure to retain current staff and ensure their voices are heard and needs are met?
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Upcoming Events

- ❑ ATS Progression Meeting - December 11th at 5:00
- ❑ SE Parent Partners Meeting - January 10th via Zoom
- ❑ [Cafe Series - Campus Conversations](#)
- ❑ [Behind the scEANES](#)
- ❑ Parent Training 2nd Semester