SNAC 

Special Needs Advisory Council

Nantucket, Massachusetts

Laura Steele, Suzanne Fronzuto – Co-Chairs

SNAC Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2023

(**Note**: The meeting was held in-person in the NHS conference room and via Zoom)

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 PM by co-chair Laura Steele.

Guest Speaker:

- Josh Malitsky – Work Nantucket

  Work Nantucket was organized last summer to develop employment opportunities on the island with a long term goal of providing housing, long-term employment and social opportunities for young adults with complex learning and language challenges. Josh met with Town manager, Libby Gibson, to begin the discussion and implement a plan for paid work opportunities. Josh proposed writing a grant to partner with island non-profits such as the Conservation Commission and DPW. He envisions trying to expand on Work Nantucket this year; what it is, what it could be, to get paying jobs for the island disability population.

  Libby and Jesse Bell (Nantucket Land Bank) are interested in providing a supervisor to work alongside young adults this summer. Possible jobs; clean up athletic fields, maintenance of fields, scanning jobs in an office, data entry, shredding.

  Diana Turk circulated a survey to gauge community interest for this summer- how many people are interested? What types of inclusive work opportunities might be available? The survey only garnered 7 responses. Deb Gately will resend the survey.

Transition Specialist Update:

- Jennifer Christiansen - Parents expressed need for respite. Our kids need socialization, volunteer training and job opportunities in an inclusive setting.

  Parent's Night Out- took place at Our House. Best Buddies Group (4) interacted with 6 students who signed up. Our group played pool, watched TV and had seamless conversations with their peers from 4:30-7 pm. Everyone ate dinner together. Two students became Our House volunteers in training. Will do this again.

Director's Report:

- Deb Gately, Director of Special Services

  District working on educational equity needs assessment. Presently focusing on grades 6-12, a survey was distributed to parents, teachers, students and administration. This is a 2-year district initiative, a state tiered progress monitoring of special education and civil rights to answer the question- are we doing what we say we do?

  (The Director's full report, attached to these minutes, is incorporated by reference.)

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM. Uncommon Parents followed. The next meeting of the SNAC is February 15, 2023 at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Fronzuto, Co-chair
Approved through a vote of SNAC members on _____

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Director's Report
Deb Gately - Director of Special Services

District Needs Survey

As part of our work on district improvement, all district personnel and families are asked to complete the following surveys. The district is seeking the support of our parent groups to send out post information on any social media in order to increase completion of the survey by parents.

Information

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Nantucket Public Schools is examining how we attend to equity. Educational equity means that each child receives what they need to develop to their full academic and social potential. This survey asks questions about your child(ren)'s experiences in school. When we get feedback about these topics from lots of family members, we are able to get a good idea about how most of our families feel. District and school leaders can use this information to understand strengths and challenges across all schools and in each individual school around equitable practices.

Things to know before you complete the survey:

1) Completing it is voluntary.

2) Your responses are ANONYMOUS. This means no one in the schools will know whether you completed the survey or how you responded.

3) If you have more than one student in the district, please take the survey for each child you have in the district.

4) The survey should take about 5-10 minutes to complete.

- English
- Spanish
- Portuguese

Thank you,
Beth Hallett