

MEETING MINUTES

Special Education Advisory Council

Building Connections to Foster Belonging & Learning for All

Meeting via Zoom
November 25, 2022, 11:30 am

Members/Guests in attendance: Kristin Asquith, Sarah Betlach, Diane Brabston, Karen Briggs, Kendall Burr, Amie Bybee, Allison Confer, Jennifer Crable, Chris Cullinan, Mary Degner, Cassandra Delmont, Amy Gallentine, Melissa Gener, Dana Hunt, Heather Jenkins, Anne Kastelic, Jamie Katz, Michelle Kelly, Gina Knapp, Andy Kyser, Valerie Lewis, Mari McGraw, Jim McMullen, Shannon Mills, Christa Minks-Brown, Natalie Mounts, Jennifer Nelson, Jeff, Nessel, Jennie Perdieu, Becky Pottebaum, Carrie Rahfaltdt, Cyndi Reid, Mark Schmidt, Erika Sheets, Michele Stitt, Amy Tillery, Lora Walker, Erica Warren

Welcome / Introductions – Amie Bybee introduced herself and welcomed everyone to the third meeting of the year. Amie shared sad news of a SPED student's passing and notified everyone the SPED SEAC team would recognize the student in some way in the future.

Mark Schmidt welcomed Gina Knapp (South area) and Jim McMullen (Northwest area), two of our new board members to the committee

District Updates-

Closed Schools and virtual education-Options for SPED: If we ever need to close due to staffing shortage, we will likely use snow days if available. We recognize that virtual learning is problematic for students with disabilities.

Blue Valley Food Pantry-

Mark Schmidt and Cassandra Delmont shared information about a new food pantry in Blue Valley that will help develop job skills for students in CDOP class. The focus is on gaining marketable skills for future employment. Harvesters and Consentino's Market are just two of the business who will be partnering with us. It should be operational for the 2022-2023 school year.

Erica Warren described the new program for the 18-21 program, PawsAbilities, located at Service Center with the 18-21 programming. It is offered in collaboration with "Inclusion Connections", a KC Non-Profit dedicated to creating inclusive opportunities within the community. PawsAbilities is the employment element to their work.

Committee/Initiative updates-

Diane Brabston shared the date for the Special Needs Resource Fair, February 10, 2022, at the Hilltop Conference Center. Volunteers are welcomed to help on the many committees that work to support the Resource Fair. The Fair will be in person but slightly scaled down in size, fewer vendors and no childcare will be offered this year.

The Ability Showcase will take place Friday, April 29th, at Blue Valley West in the PAC. It will be very similar to the first-year program that was a huge success. It will be open to any sped student who would like to perform or display artwork in the lobby. More information to follow, volunteers will be needed.

Jen Crable suggested everyone continue to give grace to the teachers this year. Jen also suggested that parents find ways to thank and recognize teachers, paras and school nurses who are such an integral part of SPED, throughout the school year. One way the SEAC council is going to recognize teachers is by delivering donuts on February 9th to each school. Volunteer delivery drivers are needed.

Amie and Jen also wanted to remind parents about the Parent Support group that meets periodically at Pinstripes at Prairie Fire Center. The next meeting is from 11:30am to 1:00 pm on February 11th.

Open Forum-

A SEAC member focused on recognition for the SEAC committee and the importance of this group for SPED student success.

The meeting adjourned at 1:02 pm.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, March 1, 2022 11:30 am

High Plains Meeting Room at District Office