

# MEETING MINUTES

## Special Education Advisory Council

### Building Connections to Foster Belonging & Learning for All

High Plains Meeting Room at DO

March 1, 2022, 11:30 am

Meeting began at 11:39 am

**Members/Guests in attendance:** Diane Brabston, Amie Bybee, Jennifer Crable, Chris Cullinan, Jennie Davis, Andy Degnan, Mary Degner, Jill Gonterwitz, Heather Jenkins, Jamie Katz, Michelle Kelly, Gina Knapp, Andy Kyser, Tara Lowery, Jim McMullen, Shannon Mills, Christa Minks-Brown, Jeff Nessel, Jennie Perdieu, Carrie Rahfaldt, Mark Schmidt, Erika Sheets, Erica Warren, Emily Yeretsky

**Welcome / Introductions** – Everyone introduced themselves since this meeting took place in person for the first time in two years. Mark Schmidt welcomed everyone back and is happy to have everyone back in person.

#### **District Updates-**

**ESY Update-** Jennie Perdieu shared the information concerning the ESY program this year. It will take place from June 2- June 30. EC meets from 8:30 am – 11:30 am and all other levels meet from 8:15 am to 12:00 pm. The days were lengthened a little bit to allow the program to end before July 4. Many families and staff cannot attend once the 4<sup>th</sup> of July date occurs so this way all the hours are covered. This ESY program is for students who are invited to attend due to an IEP team decision.

**Staffing Update-** Mark Schmidt shared that there are still 70 classified openings in SPED and 32 certified sped openings. There are working aggressively to hire new staff for next year and have already secured some new hires for the 2022-2023 school year.

**Structured Literacy Training for IRR Staff- OG and Wilson-** Jennie Perdieu explained the training that has gone on around Structured Literacy for sped staff, including OG, Wilson and 95% programs. All IRR teachers have gone through coursework for SL this year. Mark is very pleased with all the training that has taken place with the SPED teachers and the training that is ongoing. They also explained how the Read/Write subscription service is a great accommodation/tool to help all readers, it is available to all student's grades K-12.

## **Committee/Initiative updates-**

**Resource Fair Report** - Over 200 families from both sides of the state line attended the Annual Resource Fair. Vendor also attended from the greater KC area. It was slightly smaller this year but overall, a great success. Diane thanked all who helped to make this another great event, including the 22 high school volunteers. A wonderful digital catalog has also been made available which advertises all the vendors who have programs for families with special needs.

**Ability Showcase**- The Ability Showcase will take place Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**Para and Teacher Appreciation-** Jen Crable noted that every school had Crispy Crème donuts, along with cards delivered in February.

**Parent Support Groups** -Amie and Jen also noted that 10-12 parents have been showing up to the Parent Support Group meetings that take place monthly at Pinstripes at Prairie Fire. Jen and Amie invited more SEAC committee members to attend the luncheons.

## **Open Forum-**

**Celebration-** Karen Cole and Sam Cole (BV Grad) shared the success that Sam is having living, working, and socializing as an independent adult with an organization, The Nation Project Inc. Young adults who are unable to drive live in apartments where jobs, grocery stores, and all other everyday needs are within walking distance.

**I Can Bike-** This is a national group that comes in for a week and teaches special needs students to ride a bike. There is a cost and volunteers are needed. Please contact Cindy Reid if you would like more information. [cyndi@reidteamkc.com](mailto:cyndi@reidteamkc.com).

The meeting adjourned at 1:13 pm.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, April 5, 2022 11:30 am

High Plains Meeting Room at District Office