

Special Services Committee Meeting Notes

Wednesday, July 24th, 2013, 10:00 AM

Attending:

Board Members: Chiung-yin Liu (Chair), Joseph Hammer, Ana M. Vander Woude, Robin Wetmore

Administrators: Barbara Duncan, Meryl Gill, Mandie Peart

1. Extended School Year (ESY) Update

Ms. Gill indicated that the Extended School Year program started on July 8th. There are 72 Pre K-12 classified students participating in this summer program.

2. Social Skill Curriculum

Our Social Skill Service provider, Dr. Coffey, proposed a new district wide Social Skill training program which will formalize the social skills curriculum at both Village and Indian Hill Schools. Dr. Coffey will set up the appropriate goals, guidelines and content by age/grade level. The Special Services Committee is forwarding this information to the Curriculum and Instruction Committee for further discussion and approval.

3. Pre-School Program Updates

To date, there are 14 tuition general education students in the 3 year old program, and four available spots; 18 tuition students in the 4 year old program, and three students on the waiting list. There is no fee increase for 2013/2014 school year.

The Special Service Department will continue to provide professional development to teachers and parents once a month on Monday.

4. Autism Specialist position

After unsuccessful attempts to find a satisfactory replacement for a part time (two days per week) Behaviorist, and consulting with other school districts that are hiring full time specialists based on district needs, Ms. Gill has recommended that the Special Services Committee consider hiring a full time Specialist. She indicated that there is a possibility to hire a full time Specialist at the same cost as a part-time service provider.

The new position will not be limited to service to students with Autism, but also other disabilities, as well as general education students who have behavioral issues, and provide support to their teachers.

Since this position title is new to the District, Mrs. Duncan must and has already submitted a recognition request to the County Superintendent's Office for approval.

The Job Description for this proposed position had not been finalized at the time of the Special Services meeting. Therefore, it has not been reviewed by the Special Services committee. It will be sent home with the BOE Friday Package to the whole Board for review.

5. Re-Think software update

The Re-Think Autism software program has been renamed Re-Think. After utilizing the program for a year, the feedback has been positive from students and teachers. However, many parents have not used this program to support their children at home. The Special Services

Committee suggested that the Special Services Department promote this program via “Back-to-School Night”, or any other parent meeting opportunity.

6. iPad Training for Staff

iPads have been purchased and provided to 6 special education teachers at Indian Hill School. Training was provided in June by Mike Marotta (contracted Assistive Technology consultant). Training will continue throughout the next school year.

7. Cog MED License Extended

The Cog MED program is designed to improve working memory. The District plans to offer this program to certain special education students who would benefit from it. There is consideration to extend the program to Satz and High School students in the future.

Due to the disruption from Hurricane Sandy, our district could not implement the Cog MED program effectively last year. CogMED has notified the district that they will extend the license for one year at no charge, and also will provide refresher training to our staff.

8. STRIVE Program

The STRIVE program will resume on October 1st. This Program will continue on-site job coaching at the Village School. The majority of STRIVE students also attend Monmouth County Vocational School five half days a week for job skills training.

9. Items for the Good of the Order

Ms. Gill shared and updated the committee on Policy #2468 Independent Educational Evaluations which has been reviewed and revised by Board attorney, Mr. Gross. This policy will be on the July 31st Board agenda for first reading. The list of service providers and fee schedule will be established and shared with each school’s case managers on an as-needed basis. The list will be provided at a future meeting and will be reviewed annually.

*Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 10th, 10:00 AM

Sincerely Submitted,

Chiung-yin Cheng Liu