

Special Services Committee Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 10, 2013
9:15 a.m.

Attending:

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

Administrators: Meryl Gill

Absent: Joseph Hammer, Barbara Duncan

1. Holmdel Township Pre-School update

There are 18 tuition students in the 4 year old program. All openings were filled. There are 13 tuition students in the 3 year old program. Five seats are still open.

The orientation day for 2014-15 has been scheduled for February 6th at Village School between 9:30 am and 10:30 am.

2. Algebra I and Math Lab in lieu of Algebra 1A and 1B

Ms. Gill indicated that there is a need to modify the Algebra 1 course to better support the students with IEPs. The Math Department has proposed a one year Algebra 1 and Math Lab course to replace the two year course of Algebra 1A and 1B. With this new course, students with IEPs, and also general education students who are struggling with the present Algebra 1 course, will benefit. Furthermore, the new course will provide the opportunity for students to take more math classes in the following years.

3. Coalition of Inclusive Education Workshop update

The first training was held on November 18th at Indian Hill. The training focused on providing skills and strategies to related arts teachers in addition to several co-teaching teams in supporting students with IEPs. Additional half-day trainings will take place in January and February. The February training will take place at Satz.

4. Special Education Planning Committee update

The Special Education Planning Committee has been working on writing a Life Skills curriculum, providing training in sign language, and the instructional use of an iPad to the staff.

To understand how other districts provide life skill experience to their students with IEPs, the Planning Committee visited a few schools in November (Morris-Union County and Middletown).

Currently, Café 303 is run by the students with IEPs at the High School. To provide more experiences, a new Craft Shop in HHS is in the planning stage.

A Life Skills classroom is also being set up for September. Many thanks to the generous non-monetary donation from the Eyes First vision center in Middletown. The Special Services Committee suggested if additional donations for the Life Skills room are needed, Ms. Gill will consider posting the Wish List on the Special Education webpage.

5. Special Education Statistics to date

As of this meeting date, the number of students with IEPs is:

Village:	129 (September 120)
Indian Hill:	99 (September 98)
Satz:	78
High School:	146 (September 149)
OOD:	18 (September 16)

6. ARISE

Ms. Gill expressed concern that the ARISE group is not an active group as of this meeting date. There is an urgency to recruit parents to volunteer for the ARISE group. Ms. Gill indicated that the recruiting message will reach out to parents via our school newsletter, and she will provide necessary support for the group. Mrs. Vander Woude indicated a group of parents have expressed their interest to meet.

7. Items for the Good of the Order

Mrs. Vander Woude asked if there is any legal update for Special Education. Ms. Gill indicated that the Special Education attorney will be invited to the Board Executive meeting on December 18, 2013.

Going forward, the Special Services Committee decided all legal updates will be shared and discussed with the whole Board at Executive Meetings, not at Committee Meetings.

Ms. Gill shared material in reference to the “New Dyslexia Laws”. She indicated the bill has passed on the 2 hours of required Professional Development for teachers.

Next meeting : TBA

Sincerely submitted,

Chiung-yin Cheng Liu