

Special Services Committee Meeting Notes

Monday, June 16, 2014, 10:00 AM

Attending:

Board Members: Chiung-yin Liu (Chair), Barbara Garrity, Ana M. Vander Woude, Mike Sockol (via phone)

Administrators: Barbara Duncan, Meryl Gill,

1. *Special Education Statistics for June, 2014*

- Village: **140** students with IEP's (April 2014 - 136 students)
- Indian Hill: **100** students with IEP's (April 2014 - 98)
- Satz: **76** students with IEP's (April 2014 - 76)
- Holmdel High School: **137** students with IEP's (April 2014 - 140)
- Out of District Service: **18** students with IEP's (April 2014 - 18)

Total: 471 students with IEP's (April 2014 - 468, March 2014 - 467, February 2014 - 457, December 2013 - 473)

2. *Special Education Social Skills Facilitator position*

Dr. Debbie Coffey will be leaving the district at the end of the school year. Currently, Dr. Coffey serves 4 days per week with the district. With the rising needs in the area of Social Skills among general education and special education students, Ms. Gill proposed a full time position as Social Skills Facilitator. The Special Services Committee supports this proposal. The job description will be ready for Board approval at future meetings.

3. *Third Grade Special Ed Teacher Position*

There is a need to add a Resource Room teacher in supporting the students with IEP's at the 3rd grade level. The Special Services Committee supports this position.

4. *OT/PT increase of hours*

- District full time Occupational Therapist, Mrs. Nicole Newell, will be leaving the district at the end of the school year.
- Ms. Gill suggested promoting the current 2 part time OTs (4 days/week, each) to become two full time positions,
- An OT consultant will be needed to provide services up to 3 days a week.
- Those positions will also support those 504 students who require OT services.
- The difference of the cost will be covered by the guidance department.
- The Special Services Committee supports this proposal.

5. *Review Sports Expo*

The Sports Expo event took place on June 3rd on a very warm day. Participants had a fantastic day. More districts are asking to join the event for next year.

Suggestions to be considered for next year include:

- A "Mister" may be needed if temperature is high.
- More cold water needed to be accessible during extremely warm days.
- Track and field activities could be considered to replace golf.
- Possibly purchase hats instead of T-shirts.
- More general education students are needed to "unify" the event.

6. Review of Consultants for school year 2014-15

The Special Services Committee reviewed the consultant list for 2014/2015. More information will follow.

7. SWOT

The Special Services Committee reviewed SWOT which was provided by the Special Services department, Village/Indian Hill planning committee and the Satz planning committee.

8. SEPAG (Special Education Parent Advisory Group)

- Ms. Gill reported that she and Village Principal, Mr. Schillaci, had met Co-presidents of ARISE, Mrs. Vander Woude and Mrs. Conlan and the SPAN Liaison and Middletown co-parent advisor, Mrs. Karen Antone, on May 14th.
- The Special Services Committee agreed that designated (district administrators and a representative from ARISE need one more meeting.
- The final recommendation from the district administrators regarding SEPAG is due at the next Special Services Committee meeting.
- Holmdel SEPAG must hit the ground running in September 2014.
- The role of the Special Services Committee in this matter is to make sure the district has a functioning Holmdel SEPAG to comply with State code.
- The Holmdel SEPAG must represent the district-wide 470+ families who children are receiving Special Services.

*Next Meetings: Thursday, July 24th, 10:00 AM, Board Conference Room

Sincerely Submitted,

Chiung-yin Cheng Liu, Chair