

Special Services Committee Meeting Notes

Friday, March 7, 2014. 1:00 PM

Attending:

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

Administrators: Barbara Duncan, Meryl Gill,

1. *Special Education Statistics for March, 2014*

Village: 133 students with IEP'S (February 2014 - 120 students)

Indian Hill: 100 students with IEP'S (February 2014 - 104)

Satz: 78 students with IEP'S (February 2014 - 76)

HHS: 138 students with IEP'S (February 2014 - 139)

Out of District Service: 18 students with IEP'S (February 2014 - 18)

Total: 467 students with IEP'S (February 2014 - 457, December 2013 - 473)

2. *A.R.I.S.E.*

Ms. Gill reported that she and Village School Principal, Mr. Schillaci, met with the Co-Presidents of ARISE, Mrs. Ana Vander Woude and Mrs. Sabrina Conlan. At the meeting, the Co-Presidents of ARISE informed Ms. Gill that they wanted to change the structure of the ARISE (Special Education Advisory Group).

Mrs. Vander Woude indicated that:

1. The Co-Presidents of ARISE will hold a post meeting with District Administrators after they meet with the ARISE group, instead of inviting administrators to the meeting itself;
2. ARISE is requesting the use of district facilities for their meeting when needed;
3. ARISE will have their own email contact, but they are asking the district to use their data base to send out mailings;
4. ARISE would like their ARISE website to link to the district website;
5. ARISE would like to be separate and apart from the review of the Special Services Committee.

Mrs. Duncan and Ms. Gill expressed their concern about there not being a school liaison at the ARISE meeting to hear the concerns or comments directly from the parents. Mrs. Duncan suggested that Ms. Gill should attend the ARISE parent meetings as she has in the past. All parent groups relating to our schools have school liaisons attending their meetings. This would serve the children and their families in a timely manner.

To seek the clarification for the structure of our district parent advisory group, the Special Services committee suggested Mrs. Duncan and Ms. Gill check with the S.P.A.N. (Statewide Parent Advocacy Network), the advocacy group Mrs. Vander Woude recommended. Also, the Special Services committee brought up concerns regarding insurance and liability. The Special Services committee also suggested that Mrs. Vander Woude and Mrs. Conlan continue the dialogue with the Special Services Department, in an effort to be as collaborative as possible to benefit the parents of children with IEP'S.

3. *Preschool program update*

Applications were due on February 21st.

The district has received 8 tuition deposits to date, for registration for the 3 year old program.

The district has received 14 tuition deposits for registration for the 4 year old program.

Advertisement for preschool will continue.

4. Sports Expo Update

- The planning committee met on February 25th
- Participating districts: Holmdel, Middletown, Keansburg, Union Beach, Upper Freehold, Colts Neck, Hazlet, Keyport
- Preparing for 400 participants
- Donation requests will be sent out soon
- Changes for 2014 event are as follows:
 1. extra portable potty, costs will be paid by the grant
 2. starting time - 10:00 AM
 3. keep the opening ceremony under 15 minutes
 4. add golf as a new activity
 5. invite Holmdel High School TV and Film Society to report and film the event
 6. lunch period will start earlier

5. Professional Development

Ms. Gill shared the report sheet to be filled out by the staff who participated in out of district Professional Development sessions. Ms. Gill indicated staff usually share their learning or new findings during staff Professional Learning Group meetings. The committee suggested that the Special Services Department consider archiving those materials and information to assist the staff who need to look for the updates. Mrs. Duncan suggested that the Special Services Department create a tool kit to start with.

6. Life Skill Room update

Ms. Gill shared a donation wish list for the Life Skills Room. This list was created by the Special Education Planning Committee. Ms. Gill will post it on the Department webpage and in the Newsletters of each school.

7. Disability Awareness Month around the District

- HHS, Satz, and Indian Hill 6th graders will run simulation stations for all students to experience the difficulties and challenges students with disabilities are dealing with.
- Village and Indian Hill 4th and 5th grades will participate in various activities, such as reading materials, create banners, etc.

8. Item for the Good of the Order

- The Special Services committee had the preliminary discussion for the SWOT analysis. Members will bring their assessment findings to the next Special Services meeting.
- Mr. Sockol asked Ms. Gill if there is a need to add staff in helping the staff evaluation in the Special Services Department. The Special Services committee suggested Ms. Gill discuss this matter with Mrs. Duncan.

*Next Meetings: April 4, 12:45 pm, HHS upper library conference room

Sincerely Submitted,

Chiung-yin Cheng Liu, Chair