



Special Education Parent Advisory Committee April 19, 2023 Minutes

Present:

PAC Representatives: Brian Hagler (Lansing), Cathy Blatnik (Okemos), Latina McCausey (Waverly), Jennifer Pace (East Lansing)

ISD Staff: Crystal Cutler

Guests: Melissa Stuard (Holt Director of Special Education)

Absent: Brandy Tinkey (Leslie)

Meeting called to order at 6:34pm

- I. Welcome
- II. Minutes from March 15, 2023 meeting were reviewed and approved. Cathy moved. Jen seconded.
- III. Administrative Reports
 - a. Greg Molenda's report via Crystal
 - i. It is monitoring season. Monitoring for transitions. Instead of doing one third of schools, doing all the schools. Also doing compliance work with regard to putting together data portraits for each district. Those will go out at the next Director meeting in May. Plans to get bigger monitoring report to Directors in July.
 - b. Melissa Stuard, Holt Public Schools Director of Special Education
 - i. Update on district. Very busy. Families are actively engaging.
 - ii. Seeing a huge increase in students across multiple eligibility areas especially early childhood. Opened a third autism classroom this year and have enough students to open two more but not enough space. Push for inclusive preschool programming.
 - iii. Like many districts struggling with staffing. Much improved in terms of paras. District employs about 105 paras when fully staffed. Easier to fill positions now. Certified staff is our next hurdle. District has two special education coaches on staff who are supporting new special ed staff. Working to fill three vacancies.
 - c. Crystal Cutler, Ingham ISD Executive Director, Student Support Services
 - i. Deviation request from Waverly district. Student was homebound in the hospital undergoing significant treatment for severe illness. District could not start the homebound services within the state mandated time period because the student was so sick. They started providing services as soon as the student was able. Request has been approved.
 - ii. We will be working on the transition to one special ed management system. We have every district's commitment except one to move forward with Powerschool Special Programs out of Kent ISD. We will roll it out in August. Staff training starts in June.

IV. Business Meeting

- a. Brian Hagler, Report on the MI Alliance for Families Webinar about PACs
 - i. Brian attended the webinar about PACs. PACs are different in different areas. Some are very active, some getting their programs going again after time off.
 - ii. Common problem for the PACs that make it hard for families to participate are: parents don't have a lot of spare time, kids are involved in a lot of activities, parents stretched too thin with a lack of respite services. Similar problems that everyone has noticed across the state. Everyone in a similar boat, even the larger PACs.
 - iii. Shared ideas to increase parent engagement. Invite the public more. Offer seminars and webinars that might help boost membership. Michigan Alliance would like to join us for a meeting. Could possibly do our first meeting in person as a way to draw people.
- b. Fall Fun Fest 2023 – Sept 16, 2023 at Hawk Island
 - i. Crystal talked to Eaton director about coordinating for the event. Crystal will follow up with the directors to get the PAC president contacts and get Brian in touch.
 - ii. Discussed ways to get information out about the event. Melissa recommends we send her digital information to get info out to her district families.
- c. PAC Spring/Summer Newsletter – once completed Rhia will email it to the PAC for approval before sending it to PR. May 2023 release date. Will send to special ed directors.

Next meeting Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

Meeting ended 7:26pm