



## Special Education Parent Advisory Committee September 21, 2022 Minutes

**Present:**

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

ISD Staff: Greg Molenda, Rhiannon Schindewolf-DeShais, Alana Anderson

**Absent:** Brandy Tinkey (Leslie)

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm

- I. Welcome & Introductions
- II. Minutes from May 18, 2022 meeting were reviewed and approved. Cathy moved. Latina seconded.
- III. Administrative Reports
  - a. Greg Molenda, Ingham ISD Director, Technical Assistance and ASD Programs
    - i. Update on monitoring process. In the past have monitored 1/3 of school districts each year. This year monitored every district. Created a report for each district on their compliance and outcomes. Includes summary of findings and suggested and required supports. Depending on the district this may be a longer or shorter list. In the future will use a digital dashboard individually designed for each district. It will be internal but mostly based on public data except for individual IEP data.
    - ii. Also created a policy handbook for districts to base their policies off of. Want to be able to give consistent answers when people ask questions and want people following consistent policies.
- IV. Action Items
  - a. Deviations and Waivers – None
- V. Business Meeting
  - i. Surrogate Parent Training
    1. Annual training required for all PAC Representatives.
    2. Part of IDEA and MARSE. State Board of Education policy that each public agency must ensure a child's rights are protected when a student does not have an identifiable parent or guardian available.
    3. A parent can include biological, adoptive, foster, guardian, a person acting in place of a parent such as grandparent, person legally responsible for the child's welfare or a surrogate parent.
    4. If a parent cannot be located, a surrogate parent may be appointed by the district to act in that role.
    5. The surrogate parent will represent the child in the whole special education process, including identification, evaluation and educational placement, to ensure access to FAPE.

6. A surrogate parent must be an adult not employed by the district or agency involved in the student's education or care, who has no conflicts of interest and has the knowledge to adequately represent the student.
  7. A surrogate parent would be part of the student's IEP team, attend meetings, sign documents, be involved in dispute resolution, and represent the student in all special education matters.
- ii. 2022-2023 Events
1. Fall Fun Fest Review
    - a. Event went well. Good turn out from the school districts that received fliers.
    - b. Rhia will update the Community Partner spreadsheet to note which CPs showed up.
    - c. Next year check park policies and get permission ahead of time for things such as the Ingham County Sherriff's office flying a drone.
    - d. Discussion of possibly trying to combine with other nearby PACs from Eaton and Clinton Counties to do a larger event in a central location. Would be able to combine resources and volunteer time in planning the event. Would benefit Community Partners who serve all those areas. Rhia has reached out to the other PACs and will pass on Brian's contact information.
  2. Transition Expo: Saturday, November 12, 2022
    - a. Event will be held at Waverly High School 11am-2pm with set up earlier, possibly Friday evening 4-6pm.
    - b. Fliers for 6<sup>th</sup> grade and older. Use of the electronic banner at Waverly to advertise the event.
    - c. Alana and Rhia working on an electronic save the date.
    - d. Discussion about possible speakers at the event. Alana will send out a list of options. PAC reps will respond with their top choices.
    - e. After speakers have been chosen, fliers will be printed and can be distributed to school districts
  3. Career and College Expo: no information yet

Next meeting Wednesday, October 19, 2022 at 6:30 pm. Will include Parent Advocate Training and a presentation by Greg about the differences between IEPs and 504 plans.

Meeting ended 7:52pm