

Ingham Impact Episode 31 – Parent Advisory Committee

Ann Green: The Parent Advisory Committee is a group of parents who've been selected by the Special Education Director, in their district, to come and represent the special education community of their schools, districts, and community. Melissa Boelter: Our main goal is to get information out there to parents, with children of special needs. The type of programs that we can offer the volunteers anything to assist and have a better quality of life. Each district picks a representative out of their parents, so you have to be supported and nominated by your school. It's to make sure we have broad coverage of all of our special needs, and multiple opinions. Ann Green: For me, the goal is to disseminate information to special ed parents; it's hard to navigate; you don't know what you should know, and this is a way where we can give out information about any kind of service or resource that we find out is available to our special ed parents. Melissa Boelter: We try to do three events a year; the first one we just recently did in the fall was the fall fun fest, and that's geared towards mostly K-5. We're doing the Transition Fair today, that's for our older students, transitioning out into the world. Ann Green: And it's providing information to families, all the resources, community partners, things that you would not even imagine are available for you, and your son or daughter, that has special needs. Melissa Boelter: And, in the spring we will be doing the Career and College Fair, and that's all geared towards whether or not you want to take a four-year college track, or if you have a specific career in mind, or a technical field, it's all about options. We are always looking for more parents, more opinions; we have several districts that need a parent to step up and take that place and relay that information. Ann Green: All you have to do is talk to the teacher, and say "Hey, I want to know about it." Go to our website, the Ingham ISD website has a page on it just on the Parent Advisory Committee; there's a Facebook page, too. We have meetings every month, except December, and we take the summer off, but there are meetings Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:30; everybody's welcome to come to that. It's important because, my job as a parent is to do what I can to make sure that my son or daughter has things in place that are going to make them successful in life. Just because they have special needs doesn't mean that they can't be a productive member of society, in our community. Things like this help them be a part of that, and that's what I want to see for my son; every parent wants that for their child.

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