



Special Education Parent Advisory Committee March 15, 2023 Minutes

Present:

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

ISD Staff: Crystal Cutler, Rhiannon Schindewolf-DeShais

Absent: Brandy Tinkey (Leslie)

Meeting called to order at 6:34pm

- I. Welcome
- II. Minutes from January 18, 2023 meeting were reviewed and approved. Cathy moved. Jen seconded.
- III. Administrative Reports –
 - a. Crystal Cutler, Ingham ISD Executive Director, Student Support Services
 - i. Data on graduation rates for students who use Personal Curriculum is very impressive. Rates rise a lot for those who use PC so this is something we can do to help a student graduate with their high school diploma. PC can adjust a student's courses based on the connection between their Educational Development Plan, their disability and specific classes that could inhibit them. Helps provide flexibility. Districts that use PC as a readily available tool have a much higher graduation rate.
 - ii. Haslett Special Education Director, Jim Polesek has died. Diane Newman is filling in as the interim director.
 - iii. Ingham ISD has recommended to the Board that we go to one special ed management system across the ISD. Board has approved it. Product is called MiPSE, Michigan PowerSchool Special Education System. We will start rolling that out in the fall. Some districts will go in the fall, some in the winter, some in summer 2024. Goal is everyone on one system by summer 2024.
- IV. Action Items – none
- V. Business Meeting
 - a. Crystal reached out to Clinton and Eaton Directors. They are very interested in moving forward with a joint Fall Fun Fest for the three counties. Crystal will get Brian connected to the Clinton and Eaton PAC Chairs.
 - b. Fall Fun Fest scheduled for Sept 16, 2023, 1pm-3pm. Red Tail Shelter at Hawk Island Park has been reserved. Rhia has started a spreadsheet of community partners to reach out to and a sign-up form for community partners to sign up to join the event. Rhia will do an initial reach out to partners. She has already had a few express interest. Hopefully by combining with the other PACs, we can share the duties and the costs. Ingham ISD

has covered the cost of the shelter. Discussion held about ways to get the event advertised and more people to the event.

- c. Rhia is creating a new PAC newsletter to be sent out twice per year in the Spring and Fall. It can be put on our website and our Facebook page and sent out to all Directors to share with their district families. Rhia shared the template. It will tell people what the PAC is. There will be an update from Crystal, technology updates from Greg, a letter from PAC Chair, summer ideas, past events, upcoming events, links to each district's special education website, and a list of which districts have open spots and who to reach out to if interested in joining. Would like to get the first one out by May. Brian and Crystal will send their updates to Rhia by mid-April.
- d. Updates from District Reps
 - i. Brian Hagler, Lansing. Lansing district PAC meetings have been well attended. They are creating a handbook for families and a community resource page. Added meeting norms similar to what Krista Voss shared at our January PAC meeting.
 - ii. Cathy Blatnik, Okemos. Cathy sends weekly Friday updates to the Okemos Director with information about local events that are relevant to families. The Director forwards it to all special education families in the district.
 - iii. Jen Pace, East Lansing. East Lansing Director has been holding monthly Zoom meetings for families with different educational topics related to IEPs. Meetings are intended to be an informal way for families to learn more about the IEP process and ask questions. Attendance has been low so they are experimenting with different meeting times and ways of advertising the meetings.
 - iv. Latina McCausey, Waverly. Latina has been sending info to Waverly Director about various programs at Michigan Alliance for Families. Her son's teacher has been reaching out to families to try to involve families more and teach kids to self-advocate as IEP approaches.
 - v. Crystal reports that all the districts in the service area are taking a hard look at what they learned from recent events of violence and threats in Okemos and at MSU. Looking at current plans and what processes need to be improved. For example, evacuation sites should be close by, but reunification sites should be farther away.
- e. Michigan Alliance for Families has two webinars coming up about PAC best practices. April 11 and April 18. If PAC members are interested in going, you can sign up on their website. Brian is planning to go.

Next meeting Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

Meeting ended 7:34pm