



**Chariho Regional School District
Special Education Local Advisory Committee**

March 21, 2013

Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Andrea Spas, Lisa Gervasini, Iris Ornberg, Chelsea Brayman, Ann Marie Louzon, Kevin Miller, Vivian Julier, Amber Alston, Cheryl Lightfritz, Eric Dauphanais

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:33pm.

Approval of Minutes

There was one correction noted from the previous minutes: parent Kevin Miller noted that his daughter is currently enrolled in kindergarten, not 1st grade. Change will be made by the Recording Secretary.

A motion to accept (with corrections) made by Ann Marie, seconded by Eric, all in favor.

Treasurer Report

The Treasurer was not present at the meeting.

Special Education Director Report – delivered by Andrea Spas

- As of 3/22/13, all professional development activities have been completed; this includes Achieve 3000, Kurzweil (for general ed teachers), iPad trainings, including software updates.

There has been positive feedback from the general education teachers at CMS and CES following their training on Kurzweil. Jenn, Andrea, and Eric will be following up with requests from CHS and RYSE for additional training. Eric also provided a training for the teacher assistants at CMS and received positive feedback for that as well.

- The vote for the District budget will be on 4/9/13. No significant changes are anticipated.

Jenn met with the CMS Special Education staff for a solution-focused planning day at C&T. The purpose was to develop an action plan to improve the practice and service delivery of services for students in the Middle School.

Chelsea shared that it was an opportunity for staff to debrief about the changes that were implemented in the model during the current school year: what worked and what did not. Overall, it was agreed that this was a positive change, specifically in providing instruction around IEP goals and objectives, however, there were some significant drawbacks (e.g., collaboration between Special and General Ed teachers).

Kevin asked if we had “experimented” with a different model. Iris explained how the model was changed from the previous year and Kevin then asked what co-teaching was and a model was described that works to best serve student need.

Some staff made a visit to Cole MS in E. Greenwich, which provided an opportunity to observe service delivery and consult with teachers in another school.

- The pre-school has been participating in the RITAP for early learning programs. RITAP has been training and observing our program and has provided feedback that now enables us to apply for

- grants. Results from the parent survey to increase involvement are being compiled. The Pre-School Fair is scheduled for 4/6/13 from 10am – 1pm.
- Related to the Common Core Standard
 - The standards have been uploaded into TIENET
 - IEP's can now start aligning IEP goals and objectives with the CCSS
 - As shifts in curriculum occur, teachers will be aligning their IEP goals and objectives to those standards
 - Kevin asked about changes related to the CCSS; currently, the focus is in ELA and math; some standards are more rigorous
- Future trainings that will be ongoing to include self-contained teachers and other service providers.
- Extended School Year (ESY) plans are almost complete
 - Postings for these positions will be coming out soon
 - All self-contained classrooms will be staying in their buildings; Amber suggested that the pre-school students might “visit” their home school buildings toward the end of ESY so they can familiarize themselves with the building and the teachers; Eric affirmed this, noting parents could accompany their children
- Mid-March, a team from CHS went to a two-day conference on transition; this team will be developing a strategic plan to address transition in Chariho; they reflected:
 - We are stronger with students who have significant disabilities; we need to do more for students with lesser disabilities
 - One Action Step: create a student survey about college and career readiness skills (a meeting was set up for April)
 - 21st Century skills will be worked on as part of the Strategic Plan

A motion to accept the Special Education Director's report was made by Vivian, second by Ann Marie; all were in favor.

Old Business

None to report

New Business

Artesy 2013

- Iris noted that the Kansas City Buffet (KCB) has a huge turnout of people and this has the potential to be a good “audience” for bringing attention to the LAC. Andrea volunteered to contact Susan Votto for permission to set up a table in the hall where flyers and information can be provided; Iris volunteered to be at this event
- Lisa will be at CMS on Saturday (face painting); Cheryl and Chelsea will also help out
- Ann Marie mentioned the Pre-School Fair at CHS on Saturday (10-1) as another opportunity for advertising; bracelets will be given away at these times
- Vivian will update the poster and create a sign-up clipboard to increase contact list; flyers will be printed

New Membership

- Eric shared he has had communication with a parent he will follow up with to encourage her participation

- Vivian mentioned creating a Listserve to enable the Committee a wider reach for communication, especially since we have a fair number of email contacts from last year's events. She will consult with Don Wheeler @ CMS for help with this effort

Other Business

- Kevin asked how the LAC generates funds. Most members present are relatively new to the LAC, so there was not much information. When the current Committee was formed, there was already an inventory of bracelets that had been sold at school events. Ann Marie shared that money used to be used for a scholarship and suggested that the Committee might want to consider this again. There was great interest in this topic.
- Agenda items for the next meeting (5/16/2013) included:
 - Fund-raising - particularly for creation of a scholarship
 - Unified Sports Program
 - Classroom resources that the school cannot provide

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:22 by Iris; Ann Marie seconded; all were in favor.