

**SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**OCTOBER 13, 2009**

The Special Education Committee Meeting took place in District Office in the Board Room at 7:30pm.

Introductions were made and discussion began. The following bullet points are some of the matters discussed:

- Some attendees acknowledged that the BOE needs to make visits to each school to witness what it takes to make a successful special education classroom function.
- School Boards Magna-Grant is being worked on by Administration to showcase our social skills program and sports program.
- A grant was written over the summer by one of our teachers, Mrs. Tortorici to facilitate the field trips for a social skills program already underway in each of the buildings in the District. Marie will be honored at the “Angels Among Us Dinner Dance” on November 12, 2009.
- 10/19/09 was the kickoff date for the social skills program
- 10/20/09 was the kickoff date for the pool program, 3x in a semester, during school time. The pool program will be run consisting of teacher assistants, aides and lifeguards and supplemental help. Multiple staff members will be present.
- Other school districts are inquiring about replicating our autistic program and pairing our school district with other districts in September of 2010. Grant money for 09/10 school year could be used for staff development. More exposure and time to facilitate more training with our teachers and teacher assistants before September 2010.
- One of the committee members discussed the Robert Frost self-contained class is a very successful experience for her son, and for all the children presently in that class. All classroom staff are aware of the children’s needs and understand what a true self contained classroom model should be.
- Class size was mentioned as a negative for the SPR classes versus the inclusion classes. SPR model not like it has been in previous years and doesn’t leave any room for incoming students who need to be placed in that kind of setting. Behaviors have become more of a distraction and a problem.
- Several people mentioned that resource room, ESL and classified 504 children are not included in the Special Education numbers, and therefore are part of the general education inclusion numbers. These children also have special modifications that have to be met, which focuses on more attention being given to not only 6 children out of 21 but much more than that.
- Administration met with SEPFC and the above concerns were discussed.
- Annual review scheduling is taking place earlier this year which seems to be a positive for all in attendance.

- Bullying was mentioned as a major problem in the District not only with special needs children but also with general education children. At the High School 6<sup>th</sup> period lunch has a security guard present.
- A peer partner was discussed as one type of solution to discourage the bullies from targeting the same children over and over again. For example, an athlete who is highly regarded in his/her class would be a peer partner for a child that is picked on repeatedly. This would set the stage for others to know that someone is looking out for that specific child.
- Bullying assemblies were discussed because committee attendees felt the assembly programs that are in place are not working as efficiently as they could be.

Minutes submitted: 10/27/09

Special Education Chairpersons: Donna Marie Elliott & Keith Rooney