

SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING 11/10/09 MINUTES
--

At 7pm our discussion started with the following highlighted points of interest:

- Administration gave updates on social skills program – parental feedback indicates that the children that attend are making play dates with each other and that the staff enjoys being with the children.
- Sports program is also proceeding very successfully.
- Many tools are being utilized for professional development such as Instructional Multi-Sensory reading, Positive Behavior Intervention Support and Response to Intervention.
- Staff is embracing the Instruction Multi-Sensory Reading tools and the students are responding.
- State is leaning toward Positive Support Behavior System for the entire District.
- Response to Intervention (RtI) is a work in progress and will be an on-going endeavor by District staff and parents. LMW Consulting are conducting the stakeholders meetings once a month.
- Winter program of arts and crafts for 6 weeks will take the place of the sports program.
- Some parents indicated that they did not receive the mailing for the social skills program. Administration is checking into why.
- Out-Of-District placements are not getting communication of anything going on within the District. Administration is checking on this.
- A list of all out-of-district placements will be distributed to the SEPFC so that it will help them advertise any fundraisers or workshops listing an Administrator to contact.
- Mrs. Thompson will take photos of all out-of-district children so that they are included in infinite campus.
- Future program for our Downs Syndrome children is being discussed by Administration and a survey will be sent to the parents about the possibility of bringing out of District children home to Deer Park Schools.
- For the Downs Syndrome program at the High School Level a ½ day in District and a ½ day out of District at Boces (James E. Allen, Manor Plains or Wilson Tech) was discussed as a possibility.
- The committee discussed the importance of starting an early life skills program in elementary school for our special needs children.
- Dennis Ryan, BOE President, addressed the Committee about the idea of bringing our Downs Syndrome children back to District – other Districts are moving towards that endeavor and he feels it is very important to “bring them home”.

- Smart Boards in Robert Frost for the SPR classes are available – portable Smart Boards are to be used because of the small size of many of the SPR classrooms.
- Administration discussed with concerned parents in attendance the need to put back 2 tracks of SPR and 2 tracks of Inclusion classes in Robert Frost next year.
- SEPFC Dinner Dance was discussed.
- Several committee members discussed the importance of bringing Mr. Rick Lavoie to Deer Park School District. Mr. Lavoie is an educator and motivational speaker who travels from District to District around the country working with teaching staff and parents to help implement a plan of success for all children.
- SEPFC has investigated the cost to bring Mr. Lavoie to our District and that cost will be approximately \$5,000.00 plus travel arrangements. There are many topics that our District can choose from and he would conduct a seminar for staff during the day and an evening seminar for parents.
- Committee members shared some thoughts on how they are frustrated that sports take precedence over academics on every level.
- Committee would like to see a social skills program be part of the District curriculum with assignments and more emphasis put on learning the skills needed that pertain to every day living.
- Peer Modeling at the secondary level was discussed which the committee feels is so intricate to a successful social skills program.
- Five (5) keyboards at Robert Frost are being used for the music program in self contained class.
- Committee discussed having a theatrical performance including all grade level children inclusive of our self contained and typical population.

Meeting was adjourned.

Keith Rooney & Donna Elliott
Special Education Committee Chairpersons