

MEETING MINUTES

Special Education Advisory Council

Building Connections to Foster Belonging & Learning for All

September 26, 2023 11:30 am

Welcome / Introductions – Jen Crable introduced herself and welcomed everyone back, in person, to the first meeting of the year. Dr. Schmidt gave a brief welcome and introduced the Sped Administration team who sit on this committee.

Jen Crable passed out one Sunshine Basket to Heather Jenkins, she had a terrific sped story regarding her student who attends LKE.

Legislative Update: District/State

Dr. Schmidt reviewed the information regarding the state fully funding SPED and how it affects every area of our schools when it is not fully funded. It will be topic of discussion in the Kansas Legislature this year.

Open Boundaries will go into effect in spring of 2024. It will allow children who don't live in our boundaries to apply to attend here. There is much that goes into the situation, and he shared with the committee what that might look like, planning is still going on concerning Open Boundaries.

District Update

All of categories of staff employment were updated concerting staff shortages in the district. BV has raised the pay for Para I and Para II's, which is helping but we still have many para openings. Schools are still struggling to hire paraprofessionals, bus drivers, custodians, and food service workers. Recruitment bonus increased from \$150 to \$500 for staff recommending friends/relatives (hired and working for 4 months).

Dr. Schmidt shared the ways the district is working to make sure all students are served, even with a shortage of staff. A snapshot of the Special Education population was shared with the committee.

Committee/Initiative updates-

Amie Bybee shared the following:

There will be a Parent-Support Workshop at Hilltop Conference Center on October 24, in the evening, more information to follow.

The Special Education Resource Fair will take place at the Hilltop Conference Center on February 8, 5-8pm

The Ability Showcase will take place on Friday, April 26th at BVW.

The expectation of committee members is that each member will volunteer for at least one of these activities, but feel free to volunteer for as many activities as you would like.

Open Form

A general discussion was had on recognition for SPED teachers, paras by parents to be supportive of our staff.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, November 14th 11:30 am
High Plains Conference Room at DO