

MEETING MINUTES

Special Education Advisory Council

Building Connections to Foster Belonging & Learning for All

November 14, 2023, 11:30 am

Welcome / Introductions – Jen Crable introduced herself and welcomed everyone. The previous day was International Kindness Day and Jen shared a very kind gesture that was extended to her family.

Dr. Schmidt introduced Sonya Evans, our newest board member, who was filling in for Jim McMullen.

Legislative Update: District/State

Dr. Schmidt shared once again information concerning SPED funding. Dr. Schmidt shared what has been taking place in the legislature in Topeka. Public schools are still short of the funding that SPED is entitled to, everyone was encouraged to contact their legislator.

There is a major shortage of teachers across the state; the profession needs to make itself more attractive so more people will want to enter the teaching profession. Better pay would be one example of something that could help.

District Update

Open Boundaries will go into effect in fall the of 2024. It will allow families to apply for their children to attend in neighboring public-school districts. There are many issues that come into play with this type of change, Dr. Schmidt hoped that the legislature would delay this for another year, so some of the issues could be worked out, but that did not happen.

How to be an Advocate for your Child- “Families Together”

Leia Holley- Program director for Families Together, shared a wealth of information concerning this federally designated Parent Training & Information Center, and Family to Family Health Information Center. They provide support for families and their children who have disabilities, and/or special healthcare needs. She left her contact information if anyone needs help advocating for their child. Phone 785-233-4777 and email is contactus@familiestogetherinc.org.

Committee/Initiative updates

There will be a Parent-Support Workshop at Hilltop Conference Center on November 29th from 6:30pm – 8:30 pm. Come and be inspired by parents who have made a difference in their child's life, school and community. There will be tips and lessons learned from parents and experts. The event is free and open to the public.

The Special Education Resource Fair will take place at the Hilltop Conference Center on February 8, 5-8 pm. If you know any vendor interested in reserving a spot at the fair, have then contact BVResoucefair@gmail.com. A save the date email has been sent to former vendors and there is a lot of interest in the fair.

Save the date: The Ability Showcase will take place on Friday, April 26th at BVW. More information will come at a later date.

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

BVN Unified Bowling team were crowned regional champs and BVNW also qualified for State!

Congratulations!

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, January 16th, 11:30 am
High Plains Conference Room at DO