

MEETING MINUTES

Special Education Advisory Council

<https://www.bluevalleyk12.org/Page/34415>

BUILDING CONNECTIONS TO FOSTER BELONGING & LEARNING FOR ALL

Meeting via Zoom
September 29, 2020
11:30 am

Welcome / Introductions – Joanna Rivard welcomed everyone then turned the meeting over to Dr. Mark Schmidt. Mark shared information about the beginning of the school year. It has been a challenge and can be overwhelming to staff. Parents were asked to keep the stress level in mind, when working through concerns and to consider sending messages of support to staff. Mark is trying to streamline the most important work that needs to be completed.

Andy Kyser shared a positive comment on the start of the school year for his child at OMS. There is great leadership and a lot of heart that has gone into the beginning of the school year.

Overview of Council Goals and Objectives: Mark revisited the purpose and history of SEAC; the most important is that this committee is for the greater good of all sped students. SEAC's strength is its ability to always focus on what will help the district provide better services for all students. Conversation will always be guided back to the students if necessary.

Start of Year and Special Education: Mark reviewed the start of the school year and the approach we took to prepare for many different learning modes. There is a shortage of special education paras and substitute teachers. If you have a college degree, e-sub, or a teaching certificate, you can qualify as a sub in the district. To be hired as a sped para-professional you need to hold a high school diploma and be at least 18 years old. Please share this information if you know anyone who may want to apply.

VirtualEd / In-Person/ Hybrid / Distance Learning Questions: Mark answered many questions covering many different topics from COVID positive cases, quarantine, and how those situations are handled. Mask wearing, sanitation processes, temperatures being taken, etc. were all discussed. Teletherapy through PresenceLearning, Virtual/FERPA, and student needs being

Next Meeting:
Tuesday, November 10, 11:30 am
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met through special education IEPs was discussed also. Teachers are working very hard, please extend grace to each other through this difficult time.

Committee/Initiative updates:

- **Parent support:** Mark Schmidt – Due to the pandemic, we will not hold any in person, live events this year. BV SEAC meetings will be by Zoom and we will pause for 1 year on the resource fair.
- **Super Para Awards:** Jen Crable shared about the Super Para Award's nominations which were put on hold last year due to the pandemic. There have been 105 nominations with the majority of nominations coming from Blue Valley staff members. School SEAC representatives will be contacted to work with the schools to arrange the award presentation at each school in the near future.
- **Teacher appreciation:** Committee members inquired about how they could recognize the hard work of the teachers. Many suggestions were made and some of those suggestions will be carried out by the committee members.
- **Open Forum:** Dr. Schmidt shared the fact that sped teachers are under a lot of pressure along with all families. If you have issues you would like to visit with your case manager or student's teacher about, please talk about the issue you are trying to resolve and leave concerns that the teachers have no control out of the conversation. Thank teachers from the heart and extend grace.

Amie Bybee thanked everyone for participating and closed the meeting. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 10, 2020, via Zoom.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm.