

MEETING MINUTES

Special Education Advisory Council

Building Connections to Foster Belonging & Learning for All

High Plains Meeting Room at DO

April 5, 2022, 11:30 am

Meeting began at 11:32 am

Members/Guests in attendance: Lameis AbuBakr, Kristin Asquith, Sarah Betlach, Diane Brabston, Amie Bybee, Jennifer Crable, Chris Cullinan, Andy Degner, Cassandra Delmont, April Eagan, Amy Gallentine, Jill Gonterwitz, Heather Jenkins, Jamie Katz, Michelle Kelly, Gina Knapp, Andy Kyser, Tara Lowery, Mari McGraw, Jim McMullen, Jeff Nessel, Jennie Perdieu, Becky Pottebaum, Carrie Rahfaldt, Mark Schmidt, Erika Sheets, Lora Walker, Erica Warren, Emily Yeretsky

Welcome / Introductions – Amy Bybee shared the good news that one of our members had a baby and wished her the best on behalf of everyone on the committee.

Community Supports for Families-

JOCO Mental Health Speakers- Erin Ross-Mental Health Clinician Team Leader, and Rachel McDonald- Mental Health Clinician joined our meeting to share about help available through Johnson County Mental Health. Please go to the [Johnson County Mental Health website](#) to see all the services available to families in our Blue Valley School District.

In the News-

Special Education Funding and Open School Boundaries – Mark Schmidt shared information about SPED reimbursement from KSDE to the Blue Valley School District. Blue Valley spends more on SPED than the average district due to higher staff salaries, students with greater needs, and having strong programming.

The KS legislator is considering a law that would allow parents to enroll their children in any public school regardless of where they live. Blue Valley does not have open school boundaries currently, which allows the schools and districts to plan for student growth. While we understand that parents would like to have their students attend a school they feel would benefit their child more, opening enrollment would make it difficult to provide all services because of funding, being able to identify increased staff, and identifying locations for specialized programs. Based on current funding procedures, the school district would not receive any additional dollars for any new student until the following year.

Committee/Initiative updates-

Ability Showcase Update- Diana Brabston-The Ability Showcase will take place Friday, April 29th, at Blue Valley West in the PAC. It will be very similar to the first-year program that was a huge success. It will be open to any sped student who would like to perform or display artwork in the lobby. Individual acts and fine art presentations are still needed. Volunteers are also needed to help the evening of the showcase. Everyone is invited to come and see this wonderful SPED showcase.

Para Appreciation- Jen Crable reminded the committee members that Para Appreciation Day is 4/6/22. Please email paraprofessionals, RBT's to thank them for the wonderful job they do in our school district.

Parent Support Groups -The next parent support group took place on April 8 at Pinstripes!

Open Forum-

Pawsability products were made available for purchase directly after the meeting by the 18-21 Services students. They have many wonderful products for dogs, made by the students.

A parent also expressed his appreciation for the committee and the leadership of Dr. Joan Robbins and Dr. Mark Schmidt over the course of his student's education in Blue Valley. One father also noted that his son was a candidate for the Homecoming Court, which is a very wonderful opportunity. Diane Brabston was also recognized for her tireless work on organizing the SPED Resource Fair and now the Ability Showcase also.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.

**Next Meeting:
Tuesday, September 20, 2022 11:30 am
High Plains Meeting Room at District Office**