

# MEETING MINUTES

## Special Education Advisory Council

### Building Connections to Foster Belonging & Learning for All

Meeting via Zoom

November 9, 2021, 11:30 am

**Members in attendance:** Kristin Asquith, Sarah Betlach, Diane Brabston, Karen Briggs, Kendall Burr, Amie Bybee, Allison Confer, Jennifer Crable, Chris Cullinan, Jennie Davis, Mary Degner, Cassandra Delmont, April Eagan, Amy Gallentine, Melissa Gener, Jill Gonterwitz, Dana Hunt, Heather Jenkins, Michelle Kelly, Andy Kyser, Valerie Lewis, Mari McGraw, Natalie Mounts, Jennie Perdieu, Becky Pottebaum, Carrie Rahfaldt, Cyndi Reid, Mark Schmidt, Mike Seitz, Erika Sheets, Michele Stitt, Amy Tillery, Lora Walker, Erica Warren, Anne Kastelic

- **Welcome / Introductions** – Amie Bybee introduced herself and welcomed everyone back to the second meeting of the year. Dr. Schmidt thanked Mike Seitz for his commitment as a BV BOE member for the last 11 years. This is to be his last SEAC committee meeting.
  - **District Brief- Para Levels, Covid, and In-Person Meetings**
    - Dr. Schmidt shared information regarding the number of classified sped openings in the district. We were at 87 openings but are now down to 70 openings. Please keep sharing the need for SPED paras, RBTs, Nurse Paras and Job Coaches in the district.
    - Information concerning the COVID dashboard was shared along with information concerning the mask optional change taking place for high school students and staff beginning on November 29<sup>th</sup>. Drive up testing is now available for BV staff, students and families when an appointment is made. Dr. Schmidt shared a slide deck with COVID information.
  - **Peer Models in Blue Valley** –
    - Kendall Burr, Cassandra Delmont, and Jennie Perdieu all shared information about peer model and sped student interactions at each of the school levels. There are some new initiatives being studied for the future as interactions are different at each level. The peer and sped student interactions are a very positive part of the school climate and helpful to all students involved.

- Parents share their experiences with peer mentors. We would like to expand these experiences across the schools. Amie Bybee suggested a sub-committee to discuss ways to support schools and teachers. Cassandra Delmont will be the district point person.
- **Committee/Initiative updates-**
  - Diane Brabston shared the date for the Special Needs Resource Fair, February 10, 2022, at the Hilltop Conference Center. Volunteers are welcomed to help on the many committees that work to support the Resource Fair.
  - The Ability Showcase will probably take place in April at Blue Valley West, the date and location are in the process of being firmed up. More information to follow as volunteers will be needed for this big event also.
  - Jen Crable suggested everyone give grace to the teachers this year. Jen also suggested that parents find ways to thank and recognize teachers throughout the school year.
- **Open Forum-**
  - A general discussion was focused on recognition for SPED teachers at

The meeting adjourned at 1:02 pm.

### **Next Meeting:**

Tuesday, January 25, 2022 11:30 am  
High Plains Meeting Room at DO