
Special Education Advisory Council
February 21, 2008
Minutes of Meeting

Members Present: Sarah Rittmann, Kathy Kjolhaug, Heather Nichols, Rebecca Schlough, Carrie Nash, Michelle Hilden, Randy Arnold, Wendy Howe, Dr. Elisabeth Rogers

Dr. Elisabeth Rogers began the meeting with a welcome and introductions. The agenda was reviewed and approved.

Individual Interagency Intervention Plan

Our district now has an interagency agreement in place with the county. In the past the IIP was used minimally in our district due to the reluctance of other agencies to participate in the process. Dr. Rogers will do some checking on training offered to medical providers by PACER and check with MDE regarding IEPs. We will discuss at May meeting.

InnStep Relocation

Randy Arnold updated the committee about the efforts to relocate the InnStep Program. The floor plan in Midtown Square was reviewed – Innstep will be located on the second floor. A letter was sent to several local businesses soliciting donations of furniture and appliances. Some items from the Kelly Inn will be moved to the new location during the winter break. Students will start on March 10. On February 29 the Kelly Inn is planning a celebration for Innstep staff and students.

Update on DCD/ASD Secondary Program Review

Jennifer York-Barr is leading this program review, along with Gayle Ghere from the University of Minnesota, Jane Stevenson (principal from Twin Cities), Patty Waletzko, Marg Moore, Jill Murphy, and Brenda Blackmore. Activities include: reviewing IEPs, setting up focus groups, surveying general/special education staff, interviewing administrators, and doing site visits. In early May the team will put the information into a framework and report back to Elisabeth Rogers. The total cost for the review is approximately \$10 to \$13,000.00

SEAC Brochure/Distribution

Randy Arnold will send out an email to all special education staff as a reminder to distribute to families. SEAC members will be scheduled to speak to special education staff at due process/child study meetings in each building.

Adapted Sports

There was discussion regarding adapted sports, particularly at the secondary level. The issue of so few adults for the students participating was the concern. The athletic director would be the person to contact regarding this issue.

Budget Update

The district will need to cut 4.8 million dollars for the 2008-09 school year due to the unsuccessful levy this past fall. The district's current reserve fund is at 4.2 million dollars, and a levy promise to the community was to build this reserve to 2 million dollars. The recommendation at this time for the 2008-09 school year is to utilize 2.2 million dollars out of the reserve (which keeps the 2 million intact and would fulfill the levy promise), transfer appropriate expenditures up to \$600,000.00 dollars out of the district Capital budget, \$740,000.00 would need to be cut from Special Education (yielding .5 million dollars of reduction after reimbursement), the Transportation budget would be cut .5 million

dollars (via re-routing/re-mapping of existing routes, etc.), and an additional .5 million would still need to be reduced to satisfy the total 4.8 million dollar deficit. For Special Education this would amount to about 10 teacher FTEs (full time equivalents) and approximately 26-28 paraprofessional FTEs

For 2009-10 the district would be looking at going to the voters again and asking for a levy. If that levy is not passed, we would need to reduce another 4.8 million dollars. .5 million dollars would again be reduced in Special Education, the district would look at the 35 teachers who were hired as a result of the current levy which will expire by the end of the 2008-09 school year (amounting to 1.8 million dollars), student activities could be reduced at approximately \$350,000.00, and further miscellaneous reductions amounting to 2.1 million dollars would be necessary.

Next Meeting: May 1.

Submitted by: Eileen Hoppe

These minutes are not official until reviewed and approved by the Special Education Advisory Council.