

SEPAC MEETING 11-14-19

Introductions of participants

Committee Guidelines and Purpose

Goals:

New: Focusing on technology this year across the district.

New technology has been bought for the elementary schools – Smart Boards, touch screen tablets.

Parent asked specifically what kind of technology was being looked at. Ms. Bisinger said we would be investigating the assistive features that exist on current devices as well as any new capabilities we should look into adding.

A teacher shared that the students utilize the TTS reader on the Chrome Books. They can listen to online text by copying and pasting in the TTS reader.

Learning Ally (audio book resource) is available to our students again this year. Students can use on a Chrome Book, a smart phone or tablet at home.

Other updates/News:

Mrs. Bisinger: We have also been concentrating in the CST department on transition from high school to post high school educational opportunities to best prepare our students for life after high school. This continues to be an ongoing focus.

CST member shared that Camden County College came into AHS to discuss vocational programs and options available.

We have recently and successfully transitioned an out of district student to district. We have requested and received consultation from NJDOE to best support the student and staff.

Our staff has, for the second year in a row, received training and certification from Handle With Care for safe and positive physical intervention.

Last year staff also received training through New Jersey Coalition for Inclusive Education (NJCIE) on Positive Behavior Supports.

Carryover from Last Year:

Continued goal to improve communication and collaboration between schools and within the schools between grade levels.

Utilizing data—the multiple sources that are available regarding student growth.

Increasing awareness about special education in Audubon. Activities: Rock your Socks – Down Syndrome awareness, Autism Awareness month.

Website: Sharing information about activities and opportunities that are available to students and families in the community.

Previous goal of last year's Committee : How can we get more members? How can we recruit more members?

Updates on what has been done in an effort to increase membership:

Information regarding this committee was included in the case manager letter that went out to the parents of all special education students at the beginning of the year. Parent member suggested that we also share information about our committee through the PTA.

Parent member suggested that using the full name of the committee rather than SEPAC would be clearer and more helpful.

Social media output has been suggested.

Parent member shared that information about SEPAC has been shared on the Haviland PTA page on Facebook. She also suggested sharing an agenda or topics prior to a meeting that might be of interest to parents.

Suggested topics for upcoming meetings:

Bring in a presenter to address what are the most common accommodations that special education students get? How can a parent help their child at home?

CST member suggested that we cover what kind of assistive technology we have discovered and are using with our students.

INTERACT CLUB:

Hour of Power walk for Muscular Dystrophy on November 24th here at Audubon High School. The event started in support of a former student, to raise funds for participation in a Muscular Dystrophy event.

Teachers/Interact Club advisors: We encourage a lot of our special education students to get involved. This year we have a very large number of seventh graders involved. The group went to the Ronald McDonald House this week which was a very successful and meaningful trip. The Interact Club meets Tuesdays during homeroom.

Teacher member suggested that the Interact Club make sure to share its activities in the school newspaper.

Ms. Bisinger suggested that members of the Interact Club plan an activity at the elementary schools/across buildings. Having a craft activity was suggested. Also repeating the Pajama Drive was suggested.

Parent member shared that not all parents are aware of what the Pajama Drive is. Teacher member shared how she communicates the information to the children at Haviland.

Introduction of "parent library":

Teacher member: She recently read the book "Fish in a Tree" which was a book about a little girl with a reading disability. The book is from the child's point of view. She suggested creating a parent library.

Ms. Bisinger will ask for staff and parent recommendations. "*Everyone's An Aliaben When You Are An Aliaben Too*" was a book suggested by a parent.

Parent member asked how the Interact Club chooses activities/organizations. She suggested *The Miracle League* which is a baseball league for children with disabilities which appreciates the assistance of "buddies."

Ms. Bisinger reviewed handouts available tonight: Rock the Spectrum, Spectrum Sports, Construction Industry Career Day, First Children Services Holiday Celebration. Handouts will continue to be shared by email.

Parent member brought up difficulties during elementary picture day. The group discussed some supports that could be put in place (contributions from CST member, Ms. Bisinger, teacher members).

Meeting concluded.