

Special Education Parent Advisory Meeting Minutes – 1/13/11

Introduction of Individuals – Went around the table and introduced each other. Four of the parents represented elementary school students and one represented a High School Student.

Three of the members were returning from last year's committee while two of them were attending for the first time.

Purpose of Group - Defined Last Year

We reviewed the purpose and nature of the group as outlined below and determined that the bullet points captured our goals and intent for the group. Furthermore we discussed that this was an evolving group that would continue to modify and change in response to feedback received from this group as well as through information gathered from community partners such as the Center for Independent Living of SJ and the Statewide Parent Advisory Group support team.

- Develop a parent support network for individuals that have educational disabilities
- Review and discuss current district programming with regards to special education and related services
- Provide feedback, ideas, comments, etc. in an effort to strengthen and build on current programming
- Provide Professional Development Opportunities for Parents

General Summary of Conversation during the Meeting

We discussed one major purpose of the group is just to be able to come together to talk in a collaborative fashion to share ideas, struggles, triumphs, community resources, etc. This piece of bonding or fellowship in and of itself seems to have some value.

Through that discussion we identified and discussed some of the following ideas/concerns:

- Need for 3 year old ICS programming
- Social Service/Community Links for Parents Such as – DDD, DVR, Social Groups, etc.
- Pro's and Cons with conversations with regular education parents – Parent to Parent Discussion & Student to Student discussions about diversity
- Development of some type of mentoring program with WHS Students and Elementary School Students
- Linking with parents from other districts to discuss, compare and contrast services, concerns, success stories, etc.

Where do we go from here?

- Dr. Adams will mail out meeting minutes and a brief survey to cohort of 35 parents that had initially shown interest in the parent support group (We will also provide the survey to parents at IEP meetings)
- Between now and the next meeting the parents will begin to work through their own informal communication web to begin to develop relationships in and outside of the district and will try to bring more names and/or parents themselves to the next meeting
- The focus of the next meeting will be split into some general discussion again and then a focused discussion on an area of Professional Development that we could arrange a workshop on for parents