



Student Services BOE Advisory Committee

MEETING MINUTES: Wednesday, April 3, 2019

Members Present: Michele Benjamin, Hannelore Brown, Amie Bybee, Cecilia Davis Fletchall, Allison Gordon, Jan Marrs, Tom Mitchell, Mark Schmidt, Amy Tysseling, Andrew Van Der Laan, Sondra Wallace

Meeting Called to Order at 4:00 pm

Welcome and Introductions

Update on Unified Sports

- Lane Green, Dir. of School Administration, shared information about Unified Sports in Blue Valley, which falls under the umbrella of Special Olympics. Unified Sports is an inclusive program, which combines individuals with intellectual disabilities (athletes) and individuals without intellectual disabilities (partners) on sports teams for training and competition. Lane also shared that students involved in Unified Sports can now also letter when they meet the specific requirements. The sports represented at this time are basketball, bocce, and soccer. Unified Sports is also able to use Blue Valley facilities and fields at little to no cost, the same as Blue Valley athletic teams. Starting this year, all Blue Valley High schools will letter students for participation in Unified Sports. The lettering requirements and recognition procedures are being finalized.

Addressing Dyslexia in Blue Valley

- Jennifer Luzenske, Dir. of Curriculum & Instruction, and Jennie Perdieu, Asst. Dir. of SPED, elementary, shared an update on the dyslexia task force and recommendations. Blue Valley is implementing the Orton-Gillingham approach, it is an instructional approach intended primarily for use with individuals who have difficulty with reading, spelling, and writing of the sort associated with dyslexia. This decision was made after much research and collaboration. One reading specialist and special education teacher from each elementary building received intensive training for 30 hours. In addition, all elementary general education teachers, special education teachers, and other select groups attended training on the Science of Reading. The district has also purchased Secret Codes curriculum from Dr. David Hurford, to be used in all elementary schools. The teachers have expressed excitement about this training and tools that will be used to meet the needs of students.

Update on Read & Write

- Nicole Peters, Assistive Technology Consultant and OT, shared about Read&Write. It is a program the district has purchased for all students and has been implemented in the middle and high schools as the students received their individual technology device. Training has taken place for administrators and teachers. This tool will work across all devices and help all students with reading and writing. A link has been sent to the committee members to enroll students in the summer ESY session.

Update on Teacher Connectedness and Retention

- Dr. Mark Schmidt, Assistant Superintendent of Special Education and Jennie Perdieu, Assistant SPED Dir., shared a handout with information concerning the committee that was created to work on special education staff retention and connectedness. They have implemented some Hanover recommendations including; responsive support, expanded leadership opportunities, job-a-like collaboration, mentoring and shadowing, and determining if staffing levels are appropriate. The schools are very excited about the changes taking place and the relationship building within SPED, the schools, and the consultants.

Closing

- Dr. Schmidt thanked everyone for their involvement and said a survey would be coming to members concerning topics for next year. Meeting conclude at 5:40 PM