

Special Education Committee met on April 18 at 3:00 pm via Google Meet

Present: Dr. David Goldblatt, Dr. Shivoyne Trim, Tameka Stafford, Jennifer Finnerty, Carla Perez, Maggie Dock, Allison Silverstein, Melanie Deysher, and Yvonne Bouknight

Ms. Olympia Update

Ms. Olympia has met with all building administrators and has completed walk throughs at the Elementary, Middle and High Schools for in class support, pull out and replacement classes. She will set up a future walk through with the Civic and Government small learning community. Ms. Olympia is also planning to have a dialogue session with parents to gather input from them as well. All information gathered will be presented to the public at a future Board Meeting which will take place before the school year ends.

Parent Handbook

At the advice of our attorney, the Parent Handbook is in the process of being reformatted and rewritten to be in alignment with the State of NJ Statues for Special Education. This task is being carried out by the Pupil

Services Team. When this process is completed and reviewed by our attorney, the Handbook will be shared with the Special Education Committee and SEPAC Leadership prior to distribution.

Mental Health Initiatives Update

Ms. Dock updated the committee on the Imagine, Quantum Psychotherapy and the plan for Mental Health and Wellness for the school community. These initiatives are being put into place to develop skills so we can become a more trauma informed and sensitive school district.

All Building Administrators have been trained and Staff members have had training presentations during Professional Development Days for both initiatives. There have been staff members identified as Trauma Specialist for the Quantum Psychotherapy and the Imagine Initiatives.

Mental Health Awareness training has been given in two of the three middle schools with the third school receiving trauma training in May.

A plan for disseminating sensitive information related to mental health and well-being to the public has been put into place district wide.

Web Based NARCAM Training Initiative in partnership with Rutgers University is being offered for anyone over 16 years of age. If there is a parent/caregiver with a child under 16, the parent/caregiver can register along with the child and receive the NARCAM Kit after going through the online training. This program is available to the entire school and community. Visit RWJMS.Rutgers.edu/addiction to register.

In addition, there are several updated resources available on the District website regarding Autism Awareness Month and Mental Health Initiatives.

District Audit Recommendation Discussion

Financial Planning Accounting

As per the Audit recommendation Finding 2022-003: **All students' IEPs include intensive service(s) to be selected on the Extraordinary Aid application and are calculated correctly and reviewed for accuracy.**

Additional information is being requested from the auditor by the Pupil Services Team regarding this recommendation. The Pupil Services Team has been in contact with Ms. Hunt to obtain clarity on the

information the auditor says is missing as the Pupil services team worked diligently in calculating the information in question.

Respectfully submitted,

Yvonne Bouknight

Chairperson of Special Education Committee