

Warwick Special Education Advisory Committee
October 8, 2008

Attendance: Eve Bisard, Jessica Schad, Sharon Terzian, Kristen Batchelor, Cindy Roberts, Dr. D'Agostino, Bob Mattis, Danielle Roberts, Kara Theriault, and Delia McDermott.

Meeting was called to order at 7:10pm.

Eve accepted the last meeting minutes.

Old Business: IEP Satisfaction Survey – Eve submitted a list of potential IEP Satisfaction Survey questions to the committee for review. She also asked the committee to submit their ideas for additional questions to be included on the survey.

New Business: Transition Workshops 2008-2009 – Currently working with Pam Goes to establish the format for the Transition Workshops –instead of monthly presentations– considering doing more of a conference type format on a less frequent basis.

New IEP Presentation Flyer Distribution – Eve and Jessica requested that the committee members assist with handing out flyers at their schools. The first presentation will be at our next meeting – November 12, 2008 at 7:00pm with a RSVP date of October 29th 2008. This will cover the Elementary IEP. The second presentation is scheduled for the January meeting – January 14th 2009 at 7:00pm with a RSVP date of December 22nd 2008. This presentation will cover the Secondary IEP. The presenters will be Dr. D'Agostino, Bob Mattis and Sharon Terzian.

Director of Special Education Report: Dr. D'Agostino reported that they are currently in the process of compiling a procedural handbook which is a manual for Special Education Teachers and support personnel. A copy will also be provided to the Warwick Special Education Advisory Committee.

Dr. D'Agostino also reported that the Superintendent approved a committee to look at Special Education staffing for the purpose of doing away with the caps as approved on 7/1 by the Board of Regents. Each district has to develop guidelines to deal with staffing. The committee will be composed of Teachers/Special Education Teachers/Principals/WSEAC co-chairs and support personnel.

Dr. D'Agostino let the Committee members know that the District is working on the goal to reduce the gap between the children with an IEP and those who do not have one.

Dr. D'Agostino talked about analyzing the behavioral programs in the district to get a handle on the number of students who would need the services in order to do more long term planning of whether more programs are needed. Eve Bisard raised a concern that the District really needed to hire an intensive behavioral specialist to work directly with the therapeutic classrooms. In addition – the services provided by the therapeutic

classrooms need to be differentiated in order to meet the needs of many types of children with behavioral challenges.

State Update: Sharon let the Committee know that testimony is being taken on November 10th at Vets from 4pm-6pm regarding a new Commissioner.

School Committee Update: No School Committee members were in attendance at the meeting.

Membership – Two new membership applications were submitted – yet we are currently at capacity for members.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday November 12, 2008 at 7:00pm for the New IEP presentation.

Public Comment: Delia McDermott asked a question about the new IEP's. She told the Committee that she is getting feedback from the teachers that they are hesitant to set a meeting about the new IEP. Both Dr. D'Agostino and Bob Mattis indicated that this should not be the case since training and re-training have been done. Kristen Batchelor asked a question about whether someone could come to Drum Rock and observe within the classroom. Dr. D'Agostino indicated that this shouldn't be a problem. The individual would just need to contact Ms. Keenan to set up an appointment to observe.

No meeting on December 10, 2008 – yet it was suggested that we get together anyway to have a potluck party in honor of the holidays!

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kara Theriault