SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
October 10, 2017, 4:30 – 6:00 PM
District Office Conference Room A/B

The mission of St. Cloud Area School District 742 is to create a safe and caring climate and culture in which we prepare, engage, educate, empower, and inspire all learners in partnership with their surrounding community to be successful in today’s and tomorrow’s society.

AGENDA

Members Present: Pam Funk, Heather Helmer, Blair Lyerly-Samuelson, Joanie Meyer, Rebecca Schlough


Facilitated by: Carol Potter, Executive Director

Guests: Brenda Blackmore, Director of Special Education Programs
Tom Hannasch, Special Education Supervisor
Jeff Horton, Director of Student Services
Julie Midas, Director of Early Childhood Programs
Kris Pitt, Special Education Supervisor
Stephanie Wruck, Special Education Supervisor

Welcome
Carol Potter welcomed everyone and asked that everyone introduce themselves.

Carol Potter reviewed the agenda
1. Presentation by Rebecca Schlough with information on Family Voices of MN.
2. Social Emotional Learning
3. Review of Special Education Strategic Vision

Family Voices – Rebecca Schlough
Rebecca explained that CONNECTED is a part of Family Voices of Minnesota which is an advocacy group that works with children that have health care
needs. They provide Parent to Parent programming that connects parents of children with special needs with other parents that have children with similar needs. They provide information and assistance with financial questions, educational questions, emotional support, understanding and acceptance. They are a group that helps with empowerment and help provide voices to speak up for children’s needs. CONNECT helps facilitate parent matches and offers training for support parents.

They can be accessed by parent contact or referral. They accept referrals and will contact the parent, only if the parent knows that the referral has been made.

Family Voices has been around in Minnesota 13 or 14 years. Family Voices has been around nationally for about 30 years.

They provide proactive, positive support.

Family Voices is funded by a grant, but also does some fund raising on their own. They host webinars on a regular basis.

Strategic Vision
Carol Potter distributed copies of the Strategic Vision Plan that the Leadership Team has spent 8 months developing. This plan outlines core values for SPED that aligned with the District Strategic Plan. There are goals and objectives for Special Education set forth in a plan for the next 5 years. Carol gave a brief summary of each of the goals and objectives.

Kris Pitt gave a background of Quality Indicators in reference to EBD

Julie Midas described the TS Gold Assessment tool for Early Childhood.

Jeff Horton spoke to the MDE partnership regarding SEL.

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) – Jeff Horton
Jeff Horton referred everyone to the Goal on Page 13 of the Strategic Vision Document.

Jeff Horton explained this Goal covers a great number of areas:

- SEL
- PBIS
- Conscious Discipline
- Restorative Practices
- Health Realization
- Envoy
- Responsive Classroom
- Bullying and Harassment
- Student Support Rooms
Comment: It was observed that there are not too many parents in attendance at this meeting. How do we get this group to grow and what can this group do to be more involved and serve? This group is presented the information but what are they doing with it? The group would like to participate more and be called on to help educate and support other parents and educators.

Carol asked for ideas:
- Parent panel on barriers for the families.
- Give this group the positive information on School District policies and practices to share in the community.

Adjourn

Contact for comments/suggestions: District 742 Student Services - (320) 202-6800

NOTE: If you have a disability and need an accommodation in order to attend this event, please contact Student Services at v/tty, 202-6800, ext. 1205 at least one week in advance of the meeting.