Meeting Norms:

- Attend every meeting.
- Agree to disagree.
- Allow yourself to be present
- Problem solve rather than problem admiration.
- Have open honest dialogue.
- Laugh a lot with each other.

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
April 11, 2017   4:30 p.m.
St. Cloud Public Library

Members Present: Miranda Gilbert, Celeste Haines, Heather Helmer, Blair Lyerly-Samuelson, Brianna Inkster, Rebecca Schlough

Not Present: Tiffany Frank, Pam Funk, Melissa Gaetz, Lynn Grewing, Lyle Kritzek, Amanda Langner, Suzy McIntyre, Joanie Meyer, Florence Orionzi, Cindy Owen, Michelle Vasek, Susann Sieberlich, Romona Schaefer, Susan Leenerts, Shannon Backlund, Billi Rudningen, Jessica Buck

Facilitated by: Brenda Blackmore, Director of Special Education Programs

Guests: Brenda Blackmore, Director of Special Education Programs,
        Colleen Carlson, Director of Care and Treatment Programs
        Kate Butkowski, Director of Alternative Programs
        Julie Midas, Director of Early Childhood Programs

Welcome/Introduction
Brenda Blackmore welcomed everyone and gave a recap of the Agenda.

1. Art Show and Overview
2. Employment Capacity Building Cohort Progress
3. Planning for the new Early Childhood building and programs

Art Show and Overview
Brenda Blackmore explained that Denise Weekley spearheaded a youth enrichment art show. Students participated in 2 sessions and produced art. All their art is displayed on the walls and in the showcases at the St. Cloud Public Library.

It was suggested that this program be incorporated in the Community Education brochure. Blair Lyerly-Samuelson stated that it could go to all the community or a target market. Also, this type of program could be marketed in the Project Challenge brochure. Project Challenge is the adult program, 16 and up, this brochure is only mailed to those persons.
Blair encouraged anyone with ideas for classes for Project Challenge to contact Julie Johnson.

- **Employment Capacity Building Cohort Progress**
  Brenda Blackmore explained the Olmstead Plan, requiring that students have a portfolio and train for a successful transition into the workforce. District 742 exceeded the goal that was set for the number of students in the program.

  Heather Helmer shared experience of a student at C02 and how the program is working.

  There was a video done on the students that are involved in the workforce program. This was shared with the group.

  **Question:** Is there any support for students beyond 17 to help prepare them for college. C02 does work with the students on skills to take the Acuplacer test for Vocational School

- **Planning for the new Building and overview of Early Childhood services**
  - Julie Midas shared a PPT on the broad view of early childhood, birth to 5
  - 4 star aware program.
  - ECFE support family relationships
  - Early childhood screening between 3-4 years of age - vision, hearing, etc. immunizations
  - Help me grow referral system
  - B-3 intervention services
  - Preschool program 3-5 and also 4 year olds
  - 3 yr olds will be at COLTS, Talahi, Oak Hill and Kennedy for the 2017-2018 school year. All will be moved to the new building the 2018-2019 school year. Clearview and Kennedy programs will not be in the new building.
  - Home visit program
  - Specialized classes
  - Community events, Run and Read, Fall Festival, Spring Fling, Celebration of Fatherhood
  - New facility will break ground April 26, it is projected to be done June, 2018. New Name: Quarry View Education Center
  - Specialized for autism room, screening rooms inclusive class
  - Increasing 3 year olds to attend inclusive classrooms.
  - Expand the opportunities for preschool screenings. There will be a wide variety of rooms so expanding opportunities for screenings will be possible.
  - There is a struggle to have more variety and to receive input on what works for the parents. Times of classes, etc.
    - **It was suggested that there should be more opportunity for parents to have a voice and give feedback.**
    - More Special Ed for early childhood.
    - Support groups for the special needs families.
  - Julie asked everyone to spread the word of early childhood screening.
Community Ed will share the new building, along with ABE and this will be good to have the combination of these two programs in one building.

Future Agenda Items

- Training for the police officers that come into the building? Do the police have proper training and knowledge to deal with the students? A police presence can be harmful if the officers are not trained.
- More opportunity for parents to have a voice and give feedback
- More utilization of parents of SEAC – use the committee more, make it an Advisory Council
- More Special Ed for early childhood
- Support groups for the special needs families
- Panel of parents of special needs students to present at teacher orientation, workshops, professional development days, etc., to Gen Ed and SPED teachers/staff
- Brochure needs to be updated
- Resource fair with parents and geared towards families. Sponsored by SEAC with vendors, group of parents. Anoka puts one on. Contact them and find out how they do it.
- Circle of security for teenagers
- Class for families at Lincoln, Birth to 3rd grade are available
- Train families about IFSP’s, IEP’s, 504’s, etc.
- Case worker needs to give better explanations to parents so that parents have the skills to ask the questions to help their student succeed.
- New teachers and SPED panel to share first experiences. Do’s and Don’ts, tips and tools. Possibly after school starts so that teachers have experiences and questions.
- Possibly check with Jen Eutenteuer as she has a parent panel in her trainings at SCSU
- Support after early childhood for parents and family, all through elementary and secondary, etc.
- Very important to reach the Somali families and educate them on the importance of family support in attending IEP’s so goals and objectives can be written, plans can be made to make it possible to move forward.

If we educate the parents, it will help the whole school district. We need to educate families on processes of IEP’s so they understand the importance of attending, etc.

Knowledge is Power!

Adjourn