



Northern Lights Special Education Cooperative

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Dena Hagen ~ Special Education Director

Parent Support and Advisory Committee Agenda and Minutes

March 14, 2018

Carlton Co. Transportation Building

1. Welcome and Introductions
Attendees: Stephanie Rock, Allison Dillon, Heidi Zegan, Becky Erickson, Sherie Lillie, Amber Madoll, Dena Hagen, Harmoni Price, Heather Schmitz, Jodi Anderson
2. Review and accept Jan. 10, 2018 meeting minutes
 - a. Meeting minutes approved from January 10, 2018
3. Additions to the Agenda
 - a. No additions to today's agenda
4. Director Report
 - a. Dec. 1, 2017 Special Education Child Count
 - i. December 1st child count looks at qualification of students for special education services throughout the state of Minnesota. In order to be counted, the child must have an active Individualized Education Plan as of Dec. 1st of that year.
 - ii. The special education percent average for the state of Minnesota is 15.1%, and the average for our region is 18.9%
 - b. NLSEC Move to Esko
 - i. The Northern Lights Special Education Cooperative will be moving into the lower level of the old Ram building in Esko, right next to the school. This move will take place in August 2018.
 - c. Recent NLSEC Training Topics
 - i. The Golden Thread
 - a. This training was offered to our member districts, and over 45 certified staff members attended. The focus of this training was on Present Levels of Functional and Academic Performance, Goals and Objectives.
 - b. Dena referenced a handout from MDE, which is essentially the process we utilize for special education. We are referring to this as the Golden Thread that ties all things together (Evaluation Report, IEP PLAAFP, Measureable Annual Goals, Measureable Short-Term Objectives and Benchmarks, and Progress Reports).
 - d. Kids Do Well if They Can

- a. Ross Greene-www.livesinthebalance.org
 - i. Kids can do well when they have the skills necessary to perform. When there are lagging or lacking skills, those are the areas we need to focus on to help the student make progress.
- 5. Budget Requests
 - a. None
- 6. Old business
 - a. Mentoring Day Recap of Parent Strand
 - i. Mentoring Day was another great success for both students and parents! We had the largest parent turn out so far in the Parent Strand. Parents listened to presentations and received more information about ARC Northland, Office of Jobs/Job Training, Vocational Programming, Resources Express (overview of programs such as college programs for kids with disabilities, etc), County Panel Presentations with St. Louis and Carlton County reviewing County Services, etc.
 - ii. Dena suggested that the parent advisory council take over the parent strand of mentoring day for next year. Harmoni mentioned it would be great to add a parent networking time (Ed Camp format?). Other suggestions included looking at a different space, different format, alternating mentoring day for students and parents, more time to meet with exhibitors, providing parents with an itinerary for the day, including homeschool parent group, etc.
 - b. Parent Coaches/Advocates
 - i. Dena gave an overview of our parent coaching position and what the role of the parent coach looks like. A meeting will be set-up with ARC Northland to discuss further collaboration.
- 7. New business
- 8. Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 9, 2018, Carlton Co. Transportation Building