

**Minutes from meeting** 

**March 20, 2024 (In Person with Virtual Option)**

**JTHS Media Center**

**6:30P- 8:00P**

| **Items from the Director of Special Services- Ms. Juceyka Figueroa** |
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| * Department Updates There is a new BCBA in the district, Sarah Olsen and she has already started in her position. * Ms. Figueroa-has been appointed to participate in the Community of Practice for Teachers and Professionals of Preschool Students with Disabilities. * April is Autism Awareness month- district will be participating * District has been active in bringing back students that were out of district. |
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| **Presentations/Speakers** |
| * None currently |
| **Items from SEPAG Chairs- Tracy Acosta- Kimberly Heiner-Michele Katz- Diane Perez** |
| Activities planned for the school year:   * We have increased our presence at community activities- next event will be Unified Buddy Walk 4/21/2024 10AM to 12Noon * The district Website updated with many exciting programs and webinars of interest- check out the site. * Participation of JTSEPAG at PTA meeting with Mrs. Howe– discussion -Tracy Acosta   update the superintendent about our new format. TheTri milton pta and JTEF have given JTSEPAG $50 donation each   * Other Upcoming events: * Navigating the DDD System and DVRS 4/17/2024 6P-8P   These help with trade schools, job coaches, jobs.social skills, interview skills, college help, certification of completion too. They can also access Link- LYFT can get rides to DVRS- get transportation to school and job.   * Morris Sussex Regional Transition Fair 4/24/2024 Boonton High School 6P- 8P |
| **Old Business:** |
| * Programs used to meet curriculum- availability to have on Website so parents can review and educate themselves on them- a listing of those used in district and or links to them- curriculum- accommodations and modifications - Can we get them on special services section. * Name of Case Manager is now found on the Parent Portal |
| **New Business:** |
| Discuss concerns presented to SEPAG at Parent Social 2-20-2024.  Concerns:   1. **Can you explain to us the process if a parent requests to have a child evaluated and they have a MD note**. What happens if denied the evaluation, what is the next step if the parent does not agree?   Referrals can be given by anyone. A letter usually comes from parents or IRNS.  DIstrict has 20 days to have a determination meeting. If the parent disagrees and files due process, there is no cost to the parent, but the district must be represented by an attorney.  If the Child Study Team determines that no evaluation is needed it is because they may be doing well in school or may not benefit from special education, and then it is referred to IRNS. CST will refer back to INRS.   1. .**If a child has an IEP. and there is a request for additional services, and district diagrees. Is there something that a parent can do before mediation?**   If the district does not agree with an independent evaluation. The district must legally file for mediation if the parent still disagrees within 20 days.  Ms Figeruoa only remembers being to court twice since she came to the district.  Negotiations can still happen between parent Ms. Figeruoa even if due process has been filed.   1. **Questions had come up about the difference between ICR and BSI**   **ICR- In class resource which is 5 days a week**  **Basic Skills Instruction which is 3 days a week.** Basic Skills instruction is typically for the general ed population.     1. **What does the term “Your Child is on Level” mean- what is it referencing. Does this mean to grade, to students’ ability? What can be offered as assistance if not at level.**   **Would it be individual?**  Data is taken from all things, classrooms, hw, tests. Are benchmarks being met?  LLD and self contained may be a bit different.  Some students should be exposed to the curriculum, but not master it. It is based on the goals.  Any clarification about grade level goals, parents should reach out to case manager and/or  Ms. Figueroa. Parents should be given data to support goals and progress. They should reach  out if not given data.  If the parent disagrees, the parent should refer to the PRISE booklet and file for mediation. Mediator is someone from the state. It is a 3rd party that will listen to both sides.  Data is taken from all things, classrooms, hw, tests. Are benchmarks being met?  LLD and self contained may be a bit different.  5 .**Under Goals and Objectives: what does it mean when it states “progressing” is this**  **based on goals written? Can data be provided that corresponds to the “Not**  **progress or progressing?**    The progressing to mastered can be looked at like a grade scale. A,B, C,D,F. Grade levels are sometimes confused with the reading levels.  6. **IEP meetings- structure**-  The picture should be painted for the child with their strengths and weaknesses.  Questions that the team should ask at every meeting.  Where was the student?  Where are they now?  And where do we want them?  Team should look at the Present Levels of Academic achievement to form the goals and services.  Meetings with annual dates in September are usually moved to June so that the teachers and team present know the student.  7. **What training is required for the special education team?**  Special education training is usually learned on the job- but needs to be state certified.  Two years ago, we had 9 new case managers. They are given reviews of code and - once per month is the full team without different teams. Could be IEP specific, communication with parents.  There is required 20 hours by the state for the case managers which are  Social worker, Learning disability teacher consultant and psychologists.  8**. What is the process for new students coming to Jefferson with an IEP?**  New to Jefferson- they are directed to the school that will attend. Registration has a section-  asking “do you have an IEP?” Jefferson requests docs from other districts. However, many  parents provide it when they register. If Student does not have anything, then they are put in  general education.  They are placed in a program that is the same or compatible.  They will meet with the case manager They have IEP Meeting with  new CST. |
| **Public Comments/Success Stories/ Happy News- Disclaimer: Tracy Acosta** |
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| **Key Take-Aways:** |
| Every IEP meeting should follow this pattern:  Where was the student?  Where are they now?  And where do we want them?  Every member of the team should have input into how these questions are answered. |
| **Next Meeting:** |
| Parent Social: TBD Conflict with BOE meeting in April- date not set yet. |