

SEPAC DISTRICT-WIDE MEETING

Jan. 26, 2022

Minutes

glenrocksepac@gmail.com

1. Guest Speaker:

Dr. Joan Toglia, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Optimizing School Success: Executive Function & What Every Parent Should Know

Visit her website: <https://multicontext.net/about>

Link to the recording of the presentation and slide deck available by contacting glenrocksepac@gmail.com

2. Dr. Jennifer MacKay – Follow-up from last meeting:

- a. Shared classroom in elementary schools – still a work in progress. Since our last meeting, Special Services has been taking a closer look at those concerns (e.g. which specific grades, classes, etc.). They are looking at the data. They will work with principals and administrators to see what they can do for this school year. For parents with these concerns, reach out to your case manager. If parents raise their specific concerns, it will give the Department a better idea on how to pinpoint and alleviate those specific concerns.
- b. Re-naming of Pre-School and other programs – Dr. MacKay would like to have a committee with teachers, CST members and parents/guardians. Anyone interested should , please let Dr. MacKay know. Meeting in mid to late February.
- c. Aides in elementary schools – more consistent hiring. The District is trying to retain aides, but it is difficult because sometimes it is beyond their control when people leave.
- d. Coding and listing of classes on MS/HS schedules – Students will be able to access their schedules, but they will not see if the class is a special ed class. When schedules open up, all student schedules will show as gen ed schedules, but not how they are scheduled (collaborative or adaptive). The student’s schedule in a collaborative or adaptive class will only have name of course and period. Please don’t panic that they are misplaced. District works hard to check that the placement is correct. If there are any specific concerns, please reach out to case manager or guidance counselor.

3. New Matters

- a. College HSA Panel – Invite graduate attending college who had IEP in 2023 –
At the last panel, there were two students with IEPs. There were no direct questions asked about services and interventions at college. The Special Services Department is looking into having a separate panel to address special education questions and concerns. It may be difficult to find graduates that are open and willing to share their accommodations with everyone, but Dr. MacKay is working with Michelle Giurlando on this.
- b. Accommodations\Collab teachers for AP \ Honors classes – AP courses have to stick to strict curriculum regarding course work and testing, so it will not be possible to make modifications to that curriculum. The Special Services is working with Bergen Community College and Fairleigh Dickinson University to find out what accommodations are available to students in their programs. District will try to provide same accommodations to students that are enrolled in Dual Enrollment Classes. If there any questions regarding this collaborative model, please reach out to case manager.
- c. Middle School resource room - There will be no changes to this program, except for a name change. It will now be called “resource,” rather than “adaptive”.

4. Other Matters:

- a. SEPAC scholarship - We are working on the details. More to follow.
- b. SEPAC signup for new families, including new Pre-K and K-2 autism families – We are always looking for ways to increase participation in SEPAC. We would like to reach out to new families in the District who may not be aware of SEPAC.
- c. Leader(s) for elementary SEPAC group – anyone interested in becoming a leader for SEPAC in the elementary school, please reach out to SEPAC.
- d. Pathways – Program is restarting. Eementary parents should have been contacted about upcoming Valentine’s Day event.
- e. Orientation for 5th graders going into middle school will be held at the end of August before school starts. Additional orientation for new MS and HS parents/guardians occurs in October.

Next Parent/Guardian meeting: March 15, 2022

Next District-Wide meeting: March 29, 2022