



Empowering our children and changing perceptions

Old Bridge Special Education Parent Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes

Date: 9/28/16

Time: 6:30 P.M. –8:30 P.M.

Location- Old Bridge Public Library (large conference room)

Hosts: Stefanie Babits and Noël Simonson, Co-leaders

Parent liaisons in attendance: Karen Paton (Glenn school), Danielle Sodano (Southwood), Diane Michael (Voorhees and OOD), Amber Miller (Voorhees), Mabe Lo Mango (Shepard), Yvette Christian (Shepard), Jami Lauro (Cooper), Noël Simonson (Schirra), Stefanie Babits (Schirra) and Richard Dunn (High school).

Agenda:

- 1) Welcome and Introductory Remarks: Stefanie Babits & Noël Simonson
- 2) Review of May minutes
- 3) Parent Input and Discussion
- 4) Review of upcoming events
- 5) Meeting Adjourned

Parent Input:

- 1) Additional training for all professionals that are in contact with a student that has an IEP or 504. Systemic issue discovered by parent input given.

Solutions discussed to present to administration:

PLD days can focus on:

- Gen Ed Teachers (teachers of specials)- special ed training/ABA strategies
- New Hires- Special ed training/ABA strategies
- Paraprofessionals- ABA strategies
- Case Managers- sensitivity training
- Teacher Mentors to guide and develop newer teachers

- 2) Parents feel “in the dark” about their rights and unfamiliar with the IEP.

Parent input included:

- Not feeling part of the IEP team in decision making meetings.
- Unfamiliar with acronyms
- Case Manager not presenting all types of classroom settings and suggesting parent observe classroom settings

Solutions discussed to present to administration:

- Provide training and educational materials.
- Glossary of terms to be placed on district and SEPAG sites
- Review of new parent paperwork
- Parent Training (by actual parent and/or outside organization)
- Parent Mentor program

3) Transportation: Parents had issues about the training of bus staff and communication from bus staff when issues arise.

- Solution discussed to present to administration: Provide training to bus staff
- Solutions discussed to present to administration:
- Bring in outside company to offer onsite training
- Encourage parents to attend Grounds meeting to discuss specific issues
- Parents contact Board of Education member Richard Dunn for any issues pertaining to Transportation

Upcoming Events:

Hidden Dangers - Keeping Children and Adults with Developmental Disabilities Safe presented by POAC

October 11, 2016 at 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM
Old Bridge High School - Grade 9 Center
4209 County Road 516
Matawan, NJ 07747

Next SEPAG meeting on October 26th at the Old Bridge Public Library (large conference room) at 6:30-8:30 pm