

Moorestown SpEAC Meeting Minutes 12/10/15

The meeting began with Director of Special Education Services David Tate's report. He first offered a Human Resources Update: Carole Butler has been named as Interim Superintendent. Gerry Durisin, Supervisor of Elementary Special Education, is retiring in January. Ashley Prim, school psychologist, is going out on maternity leave in late January ish, and Sid, a veteran is ready to step in.

The after-school program at the high school is going well. On the first week the football team volunteered and did a great job. It was such a good experience that the players came back the next week.

The question was asked, what is the best way to communicate with the Board of Education to express approval of Carole Butler as Interim Superintendent and the encourage the Board to consider her for the permanent position? It was suggested to use our liaison Al Panzarella. Email him.

There was a question regarding a threat incident at the high school involving a child "with behavior problems." Bullying has been ruled out as a contributing factor. Mr. Tate believes that inclusion efforts in the lower grades have been successful in familiarizing the general ed population with the special needs kids in their class. This seems to be paying off in better social inclusion in the upper grades.

Mr. Tate left the meeting, and Chair Diane Doherty called on Moorestown Mayor Victoria Napolitano.

Victoria Napolitano, Mayor, and Deputy Mayor Phil Garwood brought greetings from the Town Council. They shared what the Rec Department is doing. Their summer program is well-received and always expanding but space is limited so sign up early! They are getting after school program up and running using short term funding. SpEAC members expressed their thanks to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and their appreciation for the Rec Department's efforts.

Town Council representatives departed, and Diane Doherty opened the meeting up for general discussion.

We discussed the police registration form that was recently released, allowing parents to notify police about their children with special needs. How can we publicize this form better? A link should be placed on the Township website to SpEAC and to Home & School website. We should post it on the Moorestown Parents Facebook page (It's already on the SpEAC FB page).

ESY will be held in the UES this summer because of construction at the Middle School.

The SpEAC conference planning is under way. Now is the time to make your voice heard re: what you want to hear at the conference and what you want Dan Gottlieb to address in the keynote, and at break-out sessions. Tentative next conference planning meeting will be held second week of January. Break out ideas: planning for adult services; Performcare; 1) Safe at Home: Sambulance; 2) Dyslexia (Learning Ally- records audio books); 3) Dr. Soffer (ADHD); 4) Brett DiNovi (Behavior); 5) Special Olympics; 6) Creating Agreement in IEPS (SPAN); 7) Literacy Strategies for Families (SPAN); 8) Interactive Metronome;

9) MTPS teachers on something – maybe inclusion? Jonnene Dunn will look into NJCIE for inclusion speaker ideas, too.

Need for local social skills groups: Sue Ambrose reports tentative plan for a Rec social skills group on Friday nights.

Next SpEAC meeting is Second Thursday in January.

MooreKids Teen Leadership Council contributes to these Special Needs events. How can we recognize them better? Various ideas were discussed.

An announcement was made about the Special Needs Santa at the library.

A question was asked about Special Olympics. What sports are available locally? It was suggested to speak with Scott Duman and Special Olympics is speaking at a break-out session. We need more info that's not on their website. More comprehensive info about all the different offerings.

Diane Doherty adjourned the meeting at 10:55 am.