Greene County Public Schools

Special Education Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

Date: November 11, 2021

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Zoom

Attendees:  Christi Dojack, Coordinator of Special Services

Tina Andrews, Secretary

Khalilah Jones, Chair

Jessica Morin, Parent

Jennifer, Parent

Amy Stinson, Moms in Motion presenter

Absent: none

Confirmed Quorum of Current Members present

**Corrections and amendments to previous meeting minutes** – None

**New Business:**

Mom’s in Motion – At Home Your Way Presentation

Medicaid Waivers info – will post info on Special Services page

Christi will get info to school social workers and Sped case managers too

Review SEAC Functions

1. Advise school division of needs concerning needs in the education of students with disabilities in Greene County.
2. Participate in the development of priorities and strategies for meeting the identified needs of students with disabilities.
3. Submit periodic reports and recommendations regarding the education of students with disabilities to the school board through the superintendent.
4. Assist in interpreting to the community plans for meeting the needs of students with disabilities for educational services.
5. Review policies and procedures prior to submission to school board and Virginia Department of Education.
6. Review annually the Annual Special Education Plan prior to submission by the superintendent to the school board.

Discussion of additional ways to contact parents. – Tina and Khalilah to create FB page and look at other marketing.

Dragons Closet – New initiative collecting clothing and supplies from community to address student needs. These may not be typical educational needs but their lack still prevents some students from fully participating in their education activities. Has added benefit because HS club is doing a hygiene supplies drive and HS Sped students are managing inventory and stocking as a vocational opportunity allowing students to participate in serving the community.

Greene is facing into a very significant teacher shortage – currently have coverage but very concerned about Jan recruiting

**Reviewed News from Special Education Dept.**

1. Please see the Events tab on the Special Services webpage for upcoming offerings
2. Bambino Baseball was a huge hit – plans for a spring season in the works
3. Moms in Motion will have a new information presentation for the SEAC meeting on January 13, 2022.
4. Review of data – only preliminary info available.

There were learning drops as expected but some surprising bright spots: in almost all cases the learning drop for SPED students was noticeably smaller than for gen ed. This showed the success of more contact time (2 days in person vs 2) smaller class sizes and the ability to customize more due to smaller class sizes. Discussion of how we might share this info with School Board and State officials since they squashed the flexibility that allowed those results.

Reading was an area of relative strength vs math. This may indicate a need for more structured math supports. School will be lookingat more detailed analysis of data.

78% of recently graduated GCPS Sped students are in post grad training or competitively employed vs the state target 65%!!!

Actions taken to address all students learning loss:

School Counselors are fully staffed at all schools allowing for needed counseling work

Additional School Psychologists added – now 7 total

Behavior Coaches added for each building

Student Success Coaches added (6 total)

**Question and Answer –**

Q -- How can parents access supports if kid is not acting out / has acceptable academic progress? Do they have to fail first? Example – child with anxiety

A – Discussion of ways parents can ask for assistance – we should post this info on the FB page we create.

Q -- Who should we contact for more Hipp waiver info?

A -- Moms in Motion –

Q -- What are differences in the various different supports added this year?

A – See Below:

Instructional Coach- works with teachers on new instructional methods when students are struggling academically.

Behavior Coach – works with teachers on how to manage classroom situations / attention levels when students are struggling behaviorally

School has been pleased to find the benefits of both extend to whole class not just the specific students struggling.

Student Success Coaches -

Counselors -

Psychologist -

Q-- Is there any SEL learning program at middle school like at elementary – have been hearing concerning things from some students.

A – District had expected some issues with kids out of school for so long. Have been addressing individual issues first but planning for the responsive classroom program returning (this had just begun at middle school and had been interrupted by the pandemic like so many other things)

No votes taken.

Next meeting set for January 13, 2022.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 PM

Minutes Submitted by Tina Andrews, Secretary