Ann Arbor Parent Advisory Committee on Special Education
November Monthly Meeting Minutes

Slausson Media Center, 7-9pm

November 3, 2014
Present: AAPAC Exec. Team: Barb Byers Mary Duerksen, Patricia Memmott, Courtney Runchey
AAPS: LeeAnn Dickinson-Kelley (Asst. Superintendent), Dr. Brown (Exec. Dir., SISS), Sean Waymaster & Tia Butler-Ketchum (ADs, SISS)
Parents

Next meeting: 12/1/2014, 7-9 pm, Tappan Middle School Media Center
Speaker: Dr. Jeanice Swift (AAPS Superintendent)
Pre-meeting: 6:15-6:50pm, Dr. Brown and the ADs from SISS will be available for private conversations with parents/guardians.

I. Welcome and Sign-In

Sharing Good News:

After introductions to the AAPAC board members for 2014-15, including new member Courtney Runchey (Lakewood Elementary AAPAC rep.), parents shared updates from their schools. A Wines Elementary parent reported that her daughter started reading for the first time, and thanked her cross-categorical room teacher, Beth Hospadaruk. Another parent reported the second classroom for the A2 STEAM Rising Stars program at Northside was now fully staffed with a teacher and TA.

II. Speakers

Special Olympics: Washtenaw County/Area 20 (http://www.somi.org/area20/) co-directors Jackie Flores and Kristi Haywood presented on opportunities for our students to be involved in sports through Special Olympics and Project UNIFY.

Currently only two schools in Ann Arbor offer these programs – Huron and Skyline high schools, with some practices occurring during the school day. Most of the organization occurs over email, and afterschool practice times/locations tend to be irregular, as gym/field space is hard to get. They encouraged Ann Arbor parents to become the organizing force, as this model is used in Saline schools to great success. Saline has a set space/time (Thurs. at 6pm, Liberty School) that is open to anyone in the county, and offers programs for all ages, preschool – adults.

Equipment is provided by Special Olympics. Coach, athletes, and space are all it takes to get a sport started. Athletes can attend statewide events like the Winter, Spring, and Summer Games, free of charge. Project Unify athletes (peer-to-peer supported) also can participate.
They also shared a handout packet that included the 2014-15 Washtenaw County schedule, contacts for the Huron and Pioneer programs, and a required health appraisal form.

**504 Plans:** Derrick Padgett ([padgettd@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:padgettd@aaps.k12.mi.us)), Section 504 Coordinator for AAPS, presented info and updates on how to request 504 plans. For an overview of 504 plans, see the Section 504 website at: [http://www.a2schools.org/aaps/ins.siss/section_504](http://www.a2schools.org/aaps/ins.siss/section_504)

He also reviewed slides that covered the topics of: The 504 Team; Evaluation and Placement Process; Possible Evaluation Triggers: Cautions on: RTI, Good Grades, & Health Plans; A Checklist for Determining Disabilities under 504; Types of Accommodations; Examples of Disabilities and Accommodations.

AAPS reviews 504 plans once/year, though there is no legal mandate to do so. Dr. Brown and LeAnn Dickinson-Kelley also shared that the AAPS Achievement Teams in our schools are a powerful part of this process of looking at each student individually to see what has been done, what is working, and what may need to be changed. Within elementary schools, AAPS typically has principals as the 504 case managers, with more use of assistant principals and counselors in that role at the middle and high school level. 504s can be updated at any time. There is no centralized database however, the word document is usually saved separately by the 504 manager, with hard copies going into the CA60 general education office file, a box checked in PowerSchool, and copies distributed to teachers by the counselors.

III. Reports from AAPAC

**AAPS Administration – AAPAC Officer Meetings Report:** The executive team met with Dr. Swift, Dr. Brown, LeAnn Dickinson-Kelly, Sean Waymaster, and Cassandra Bennion on October 16th. Topics discussed included raising AAPAC awareness, finding DAW funding/coordinates who could organize workshops for the spring, having Dr. Swift speak at the Dec 1st AAPAC meeting with a message to parents, and creating a clear process and district vision for Assistive Technology. A parent at the meeting suggested we recommend the “SISS Webmaster” email address be relabeled as “Special Education Webmaster” due to lack of understanding of the term “SISS.” For the January 5th parent meeting, Dr. Brown has invited Jeff Flynn (Consultant for Assistive Technology) and Vicky James (Board Certified Behavior Analyst) to speak.

**WISD PAC Report:** Barb summarized the 10/19 meeting about social media options for students with disabilities. Future topics: 11/18 TIENET, 1/20/15 Personal Curriculum (Sharon LaPointe), 2/?? Transition, 3/17 Michigan Rehab Services, 4/21 CSTS (Community mental health), 5/19 Potluck/Planning meeting. Meetings are the 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 pm at the WISD on Wagner Rd.

*Meeting business concluded around 8:45, parents stayed to discuss individual issues with officers/each other. Handouts from the meeting will be uploaded to the AAPAC website at: [http://instruction.aaps.k12.mi.us/aapac/](http://instruction.aaps.k12.mi.us/aapac/)*