

**WYCKOFF PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SPECIAL SERVICES  
SICOMAC SCHOOL  
356 SICOMAC AVENUE  
WYCKOFF, NJ 07481  
(201) 848-5690 Fax (201) 848-5687**

**RICHARD D. KUDER,  
SUPERINTENDENT**

**DEBRA HEROLD, DIRECTOR  
STUDENT PERSONNEL SERVICES**

**Minutes for the Director's Special Education Parent Meeting  
October 23, 2018**

- Debra Herold welcomed everyone, encouraged everyone to sign in and defined the purpose of the meeting as a forum to discuss district-wide special education issues and not address individual needs. She also stated that the meeting was for parents of special education students registered in the district. Jill Dyer, the coordinator of the Special Education Parent Advisory Group, was introduced. The role of the Special Education Parent Advisory group was discussed. They meet independent of district representatives, and the Director thanked them for providing her with topics to discuss at this meeting.
- SeeSaw is an interactive communications app which allows teachers and students to communicate back and forth with parents. The Director announced that some staff members will be trained on SeeSaw in the coming months. The benefits of the app were discussed and it is expected that it would initially be rolled out to the LLD classes and Preschool.
- The Director clarified the differences between the ESY Summer program, the Summer Academies and Social Club. Parents commented that they would like more flexibility with these programs and wondered if there is a way that students can attend multiple programs. An inquiry was made regarding an extended program providing extra hours beyond ESY. The suggestion was made that ESY students could come to the Social Club after their programs end in the morning. Clarification is needed regarding Summer Academies and the policy for one on one aides. The Director said she will consider suggestion. Follow up will take place with the appropriate people.
- An update was provided for the challenging transportation issues. The suggestion was made that an aide ride the bus for a week during the first week of a transportation company change.
- Ms. Herold explained that case managers are re- assigned and changed from time to time depending on numbers, staffing, placements or geography. Currently most out of district students are handled by Lauren Drucker. Middle School case managers handle middle school out of district students. Each LLD class has its own case manager.
- Aide training was offered in August. It was not mandatory but most aides attended. At that time aides met with the case manager and reviewed the IEPs.

- Interviewing will start next week for a new Special Education coach since our previous coach resigned at the end of August. Special Education coaches help to provide training and support for the special education staff.
- Anne Mapes provided a sample guidance lesson and explained how the parent component of the lessons can enable parents to continue the lessons at home. She shared that a letter will go home with each student after a Guidance lesson. The Director thanked the parents for this recommendation and she commended Anne Mapes and Paula Rubenacker for creating the letters.
- Ms. Herold addressed the issue of the District creating an ABA program that was considered last year. The program would have been run by Bergen County Special Services; however, it will not go forward at this time because there were not enough students to begin the program. The idea may be revisited at another time.
- It was explained that there are many methodologies of teaching reading. One such method is Orton Gillingham, a multisensory approach. Fairleigh Dickinson runs a satellite program here in Wyckoff, teaching this method, that some of our teachers have taken at their own expense. The Director explained that our district uses the “We don’t teach programs, we teach children” approach. Orton Gillingham is one approach we use but there are several others.
- Ms. Herold encouraged feedback regarding inviting experts to the next meeting on February 13, 2019.
- Students’ IEPs address the issues of accommodations – including study guides, study guides with answers, etc. Reach out to your case manager if you need to know more.
- A parent expressed concerns over the focus of keyboarding versus handwriting. The Director assured them that handwriting is a skill that is still addressed in the curriculum.
- Parents discussed the possibility of having representatives for each school as a point person to the Special Education Parent Advisory Group.

Next Meeting:

February 13, 2019 @ 1:00 p.m.

May 15, 2019 @ 9:00 a.m.

To be held at the Special Services conference room.