

**HADDON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY BOARD**

**AGENDA 4/10/18**

**Introductions**

**Old Business**

Disability awareness

These activities were previously identified as a goal for the district. Within district, disability awareness activities continue to be conducted with staff, and steps are taken to try to incorporate disability awareness within the current classroom activities.

Previous suggestions included awareness days (e.g., Wear blue for autism awareness), having a panel of individuals with disabilities, having a “walk” event to involve more of the community, having a film screening to promote awareness.

This evening we discussed developing a subcommittee to research possible speakers for a panel, include posters on different disabilities at Back To School nights, and concerns with funding for speakers and events.

It was determined that Ms. Cotter will email the individuals who have participated to see who is interested in being part of the subcommittee, and Ms. Cotter will research possible funding sources. A parent from the group in attendance indicated interest in helping with the committee.

Social Skill/mental health supports across district

Ms. Cotter met with counselors to discuss ways to increase supports, and in what capacity. She is reviewing those suggestions with administrators and other team members.

## **New Business**

### Review of common areas of concern or needs

The group spent time in smaller groups to identify areas of concern or need, as well as areas of strength with special education services in district.

The following concerns were noted:

- iPad accommodations, school issued iPad control and safety
- Transitions (from Early Intervention to preschool, Elementary to RMS, high school to college)
- Stress management and anxiety strategies
- Behavior management strategies (identifying antecedent interventions)
- Disability and IEP awareness for general education teachers
- HIB (Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying)
- ESY notification of specific placements

Areas of strength:

- General statements of the program doing well
- Positive responses to parent input
- Good support for pre-referral interventions
- IEPs followed, meetings are productive

Ms. Cotter will review the concerns with the group at an upcoming meeting to prioritize areas of need within the department.

## **Special Education Updates**

Changes to reviews of OCR complaints

New federal funding

Significant disproportionality

New special education secretary – Johnny Collett

