

HADDON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

PARENT ADVISORY BOARD

NOTES: 10/9/18

Purposes/Mission of the Group

A brief review of the SEPAG mission was conducted with new members.

Review of prior discussion

Progress monitoring and communication

This concern was discussed previously, and is one that is a specific target for the department this school year. Specifically, utilizing the LinkIt program to assist with monitoring of student progress, the introduction of the Gold Assessment at the Preschool Level,. The group reviewed ways to increase communication regarding progress on goals, and progress in general for students.

Accommodation and modifications

The group discussed this concern at prior meetings, specifically noting the need for clarity in accommodations and modifications at IEP meetings, and making sure general education teachers and aides are updated on changes to accommodations and modifications for students. Workshops on overall disability awareness as well as accommodations and modifications has occurred in district and with aides. A new aide training program was implemented this year to target more specific areas of support (i.e., behavior, social/emotional, academic, physical) based on individual student needs. This is an area that continues to be a goal for the special education department.

Transitions supports

Previously, concerns about transitions for students and families (high school to post-secondary, middle to high school, elementary to middle, and preschool) were noted. The special education department website has been updated with information in these areas, as well as on the counselors' page. In addition, a focus on providing more detailed information at IEP meetings was addressed with the child study team members.

Disability awareness

A sub-committee met over the summer to review possible community events to address disability awareness. Ideas included a screening of a movie related to disabilities and HIB, and a bike helmet/safety check. The group will attempt to re-convene to determine dates or further options for these events. Anyone interested in joining the group is welcome to participate.

Social/emotional supports

The group reviewed the need for social/emotional supports for all students in district. We discussed the inclusion of two new programs in district: elementary counselor lesson plans for all students, and a pilot of the social thinking program combined with the district's character counts program.

New discussion/new areas of concern or focus

Special Education PTA

The group discussed the possible need to create a Special Education PTA in district. The purpose of the SEPAG is not aligned with the typical purposes of a PTA, so it was discussed that this would need to be a separate group. The needs a PTA may address included: fund raising opportunities, and ability to review general concerns outside of the SEPAG forum.

Parent education on IEP process/meeting procedures

A concern regarding parents being confused with the IEP process during meetings was discussed. The group determined that providing education on IEPs and special education supports to parents would be helpful. This concern will be addressed with the case managers and therapists, to identify steps we can take at a meeting level to help parents through the process.

Increasing awareness of SEPAG

The group discussed how to increase the awareness of the SEPAG district wide. Currently meetings are posted on the website and on each school's calendar/agendas. Based on suggestions from our meeting today, Mrs. Cotter reviewed the SEPAG with board members at the last board meeting to make them aware of the group and its purpose, and to share where notes can be viewed, as well as the list of most recent concerns.

The following ideas were also discussed:

- Use of remind

- Having dates posted for the school year

- Have a disability awareness table or SEPAG table at school fairs/ events

- Having a presence of the SEPAG group at board meeting

