

HADDON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

PARENT ADVISORY GROUP NOTES

Date: 1/25/21

Purpose of Parent Advisory Group:

1. Increasing awareness of SEPAG, and this SEPAG group
2. Providing information to the Supervisor of Special Services regarding areas of concern or suggestions for the special education department
3. Providing information on Special Education Services to the general school community

Agenda

1. Social/Emotional Considerations
 - a. The group discussed the current character programs in district and reviewed some district wide programs (e.g., AVID) that are in use in local districts.
 - b. There was discussion about the district vision and need for a structured SEL program in district, as well as additional counselors
 - c. There is concern that a comprehensive social skills program is not implemented.
 - d. A discussion about recess at the middle school level occurred. Parents expressed an interest, but wanted to ensure students who are “socially weaker” were supported and that teachers would be a model in this activity
2. Reintroduction of special education students from hybrid to four day/week scheduling
 - a. The current procedure for having students with 504 or IEP plans attend both cohort days was discussed.
 - b. There is concern that all parents are not aware of this practice.
 - c. Dr. Fisticaro shared the current status of the Transition committee and plans moving forward.
3. Transition between school levels
 - a. There is concern with the procedures and communication between schools when transitions occur.
 - b. Ms. Cotter shared the updates on transition procedures with the group.
4. IEP goals/progress reporting

- a. There continues to be concern regarding the need for individual goals in the IEP as well as ongoing progress monitoring. Specifics included teachers not automatically addressing the IEP goal with intervention.
- b. Ms. Cotter shared the need for additional Professional Development, and steps being taken currently through observation and training.
- c. Some confusion regarding recent progress report timeline was discussed

5. Middle School

- a. Study Skills – consideration for time to work on specific IEP goals, provide specialized instruction, organization skills,
- b. Inclusion – Concern that both teams do not have the same supports – inclusion social studies and science on one team, and math and language arts on the other.
- c. Consideration of a class period to address goals and specialized instruction (current 9th period?)
- d. Access to the general education curriculum at the middle school - Parents provided feedback on the concern with access to exploratory and foreign language classes for students who need support at the middle school level

6. District school plans

- a. The district has focus groups designed to provide input into potential redistricting plans. The SEPAG group discussed how they can provide input into this process, either with a separate SEPAG meeting to share concerns, or in a separate FOCUS group.

Updates

Equity resources page
Graduation requirement changes
Transition from remote learning plan
Annual review schedules
504 plan system
Dyslexia training

Next Date:

The group discussed having a larger group meeting that is advertised more thoroughly to gain input from a larger sample of parents. Ms. Cotter will discuss specifics with ongoing members and set a date for this meeting.