

BETHPAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
SEPTA MEETING
OCTOBER 1, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Christine Bergin at 7:15pm.
Minutes approved by Illyse Cuzzo and Laurene Lang.

Introduction

Christine Bergin, SEPTA's newly appointed president, welcomed all attendees at the meeting and introduced: Executive Director of PPS and Special Education, Ms. Patricia Hantzidiamantis, Director of Special Education, Ms. Monica Manzi, the newly appointed SEPTA Board, and Teacher Reps., Ida Barry and Callan Lonergan.

Presentations were held by the following:

CBS Principal: Mr. Furrey

Mr. Furrey provided a background and updates on CBS's special ed. program.

Classes

- New this year is a 2nd/3rd grade self contained class ran by Ms. Muller, formerly from Kramer Lane.
- Additional 5th grade inclusion class ran by Ms. Sokolowski and Ms. Danowski

Social Skills Development

- Done differently at different grade levels (push-ins vs. pull-outs).
- Not for special needs students only. Includes student role models/peer leaders.
- Different strategies are used to allow students to become more socially accepted.
- Ran by Dr. Farkus and Mrs. Glassman as well as an intern.
- District adopted 2nd step program which will be done in each classroom.
- Focus for fifth grade students – "How to prepare them for middle school."

JFK Psychologist: Dena Riccardi

Ms. Riccardi addressed the transition from elementary to middle school. It begins while students are in fifth grade.

- JFK administrators start by meeting with fifth grade teachers.
- They attend annual review meetings to discuss student needs.
- School runs a pen pal program between fifth grade and seventh grade students
- Fifth grade students visit the school.
- August students meet with guidance counselors and parents meet with administrators.
- In August SEPTA hosts an ice-cream social.

Ms. Riccardi spoke of special ed. support classes available. She stressed the use of regular updates on the progress of students as well as an open door policy to address any parents' concerns or needs for their child.

Executive Director of PPS: Ms. Hantzidiamantis

Ms. Hantzidiamantis gave accolades to the district's special ed. program. Her goal is to advocate for the children and educate the community on special education programs. She spoke of professional development and working individually w/ teachers to further enhance the district's programs. For testing, she will be relooking at test modification/ accommodations and retraining staff.

Both Ms. Hantzidiamantis and Ms. Manzi called all parents of 6th grade students with IEPs to get feedback on their child's transition to the middle school. She stressed PPS open door policy.

She addressed the positions of Executive Director of PPS and Special Education versus Director for Special Education (Ms. Monica Manzi)

- Executive Director meets directly with Superintendent for quicker turnaround.
- It includes all pupil personnel (nurses) responsibilities, and is a broader job.
- Director of Special Education deals with the instructional piece, working with the teachers.

CSE and Annual Review Meetings were discussed as follows:

- CSE meetings are shared along with Ida Tobias Russo
- At a sub CSE meeting parents are not required to attend. They are done in preparation for annual review meeting at the building level. They have the same function as an annual review meeting as long as there are no more restricted changes.
- Initial placements, outer district kids, recommendations for moving toward a more restricted program are held at PPS and require a parent member.
- Parents can request who they want to be in attendance at a CSE, including the Executive Director and Director.

Ms. Hantzidiamantis spoke about new resources funded through a grant including netbooks, and smart boards for inclusion students.

Rick Lavoie is scheduled to be guest speaker on March 19 at Superintendent's Conference Day w/time hopefully also allocated for parents. He will conduct a f-u for staff development.

Director of Special Education: Ms. Monica Manzi

She has visited all classes in all building with focus on self contained and inclusion classes and has been reviewing student IEPs. She will be looking at inclusion pairs of teachers and inclusion training. She has seen a lot of great interaction and wants to see children happy and motivated to learn.

BUDGET

Approval of budget by Anna Israelton and Roseanne Atkins.

MEMEBERSHIP

257 memberships to date.

A lot of outer district children do not receive SEPTA membership. Michelle to look into reaching out to them.

CORRESPONDENCE

Denise read thank you notes from Callan Lonergan, Jackie LaRosa, Illyse Cuzzo, scholarship recipient Sarah Feld, and Michael Spence.

TREASURER REPORT

Treasurer, Janet Tancora, discussed report in full detail. Our beginning balance was \$3,433.78, ending balance is \$1,914.93.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Anna Israelton provided the following update:

- BOE has hired a new agency for O.T. - Metro Therapy. The District is very impressed with agency.
- BOE is thrilled with new track. Phase 1 of program is complete. Phase 2 consists of new bleachers, new concession stand and bathrooms.
- A community meeting is scheduled for Nov. 14 requesting that the community come out and vote on Nov. 17 in support of capital reserve fund to make improvements on our buildings and grounds. Voters are requested to cast a vote on each item listed i.e. new auditorium at JFK, replacing boilers at H.S.
- TGIF at BHS ran by Director of P.E., Health & Athletics, and Mr. Franchise. Purpose: Asked students to sign a code of conduct. Bethpage District is supporting this by opening up the H.S. on Friday nights for H.S. students and middle school students. Supervised first eight week session for h.s. students second eight week session for middle school students. Will be announced on list serve.

NEW BUSINESS

Fund Raiser: Michele Morano spoke of cooking contest where recipes can be converted into a cookbook and placed on sale through SEPTA.

Ida Barry invited everyone on October 30 to room 125 Monster Mash for the BHS Halloween party for elementary grade students.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Volunteers needed for the following:

- Homecoming
- Membership for next year start getting involved in August, back to school night
- Journeys newsletter
- Halloween party, at H.S. October 30
- Hospitality

Spoke of new fundraising product - Bethpage Snuggly.

Game night scheduled for April 9th.

Autism walk Sunday, October 4 at Jones Beach at 10:00.

Astronomy night Friday, October 23 at the H.S.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Christine at 8:45pm.