

**SEPAC Minutes 11-24-08**  
Submitted by Steve Taylor

Members Present:

Bonnie Kennedy  
Aaron Stanton  
Steve Taylor  
Bev Shorter  
Paul Iacobazzi  
Kim Thomas  
Melissa Murphy  
Elmira Sines  
Ramsey Graham

1. Introductions: members shared positive comments and concerns.

2. Last meeting's minutes discussion.

3. Old Business:

ADA parking: Westwood. Aaron stated that there is a parking spot in the back parking lot that may be reclaimed. Food delivery truck blocks the front parking lot at times and the timing of the bus departures can also block the access in the front parking lot. They are still exploring the usage of the spot in the back parking lot.

Peer Buddies: Aaron stated that Elmira was given the program to review. Elmira was impressed with the program and will get copies to other members. Communication is a strength of this program. Group discussed positive aspects of peer buddies. Concerned about the parent participation aspect of the program. Aaron described the positive attributes of the program including the circle of friends concept. **Aaron will look for people who would be interested in moving this program forward.** Kim Thomas and Bev stated that they would be interested.

4. New Business:

Transition from Preschool to Elem to MS and MS to EHS: Paul I. described the "shaking hands with the future" activity that occurred at EHS last year. EMS and TMMS students and casemanagers attended during the day to meet, tour, eat lunch and get an overview of what to expect in high school for the next year and get to look at their schedules. Then, parents came in the evening for a similar activity. In addition to this activity, students and families can attend Hornet Days in summer and a specific 9<sup>th</sup> grade orientation. Any individual needs can be accommodated. For those students in self contained special education classes, their activities included visitations, videotaping and combined community outings.

Bev S. described potential Elem to MS procedures. Have the 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher perhaps attend the 5<sup>th</sup> grade IEP. Have the 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher come and observe incoming students. Bev took her 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to TMMS for visitation, lunch, meet teachers, tour, etc.

Consider sending 5<sup>th</sup> graders with their gen ed peers on a 5<sup>th</sup> grade end of year picnic. MS counselor comes to 5<sup>th</sup> grade and registers all students, including picking classes. Bev transfers all information, portfolio info and other info pertinent to each kiddo to the new teacher. Bev likes the concept of a self contained linear line of programming from preschool to high school...where do we want our kids to be when they leave our program? The state prefers an employment option when each kiddo is completed with his/her education.

Aaron supports a day of observation for self contained programs to be considered in addition to meeting at the end of the year. Visitations are always encouraged.

Kim T. talked about how she would like to have time with the parent and the child in addition to discussing curriculum and specific behaviors with the 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher.

**Aaron requested “best ideas, practices” to be sent to him from this group.**

Assistive Technology:

Group members shared that there seems to be technology in the schools but not all personnel know that it is there. Group seeks an inventory. Aaron stated that at our Annex the OT, PT, SLP's have an inventory of what they have there. Aaron described the current way to order materials in a group process vs. individual accounts in previous years. It would be difficult to ask all special ed staff to inventory everything they have. Most materials stay with the teacher. Kim stated that perhaps it would be helpful for us to network with other teachers/staff in the district by email to see what materials that may be shared. Sharpen the communication strategies. **Aaron will check on getting a Swift page with the tech dept.**

Future agenda items:

**Ramsey will gather items from the group and email Steve.**

**Next meeting: January 12, 2009 6-8 pm, District Office Board Room.**