

SEPAC Minutes 3-23-09

Submitted by Steve Taylor

Members Present:

Amy French
Ramsey Graham
Denise Keating
Fran Watt
Sheerie Slatton
Bonnie Kennedy
Debbie Kerschner
Elmira Sines
Larinda Hopkins
Aaron Stanton
Steve Taylor

1. Introductions
2. Group discussed minutes from the January meeting.
3. **Peer Buddies discussion:** Parent Advocacy Network members received copies of Peer Buddies literature at their last meeting. Group stated that they would like to see it instituted over time. Members look forward to working this into a school site. Parent asked if it would work for Senior project requirements for graduation. Concern expressed about availability of elementary counselors for program support. Members stated that Westwood would be a good place to start due to interest of the program, student availability and positive behavioral supports already in place. Training provided to families of all students involved in the program as well as for staff. Training around specific disabilities is included within the specific targeted classroom. Training is provided on how to support all students with and without disabilities. Ongoing process to answer peer buddies questions. Peer buddies meet monthly for debriefing and skill building support. Intent is to have peer buddies train next year's peer buddies. Look at circle of friends support concept. Considering training 4th or 5th graders as an initial starting point. Do we consider focusing on a student with Autism? Ramsey wants to consider getting a team of people together, with some teachers, hopefully, to look at implementing it. She would like to see 2 parents with students with disabilities who would be willing to have peer buddies in their child's classroom. Aaron will talk to Keri about next steps for next year in implement it at Westwood. Whose classroom? Counselor availability? Aaron will then contact Ramsey with names of possible participants.
4. **Bridging Program:** District has a process in place for transitioning between buildings, preschool to elementary, elementary to middle school, and middle school to high school. Parents in group want to see more of a structured process for students who are moving to new buildings in the fall. Aaron stated that a standard operating procedures manual will be developed that will include activities for this topic. Building parent/teacher connections around the concept of transitioning students is something the group would like to work on. Does SEPAC

put on a dinner at next summer's Hornet Days or at each of the buildings or other 'meet the teacher' type activities? How do we schedule meet and greets at buildings? Is it like an Open House?

5. **Budget:** No changes to the existing Special Ed. preschool program next school year. Looking at working with the CTE program to develop a child care program that could potentially assist us in the preschool program. Considering integrated preschool for school year 10-11. Aaron discussed the 2 million dollar deficit for next school year. Early release on Friday's district wide will be occurring next school year. Kindergarten will be half days next year. There will be an option for full day, tuition based kindergarten depending on 20 minimum enrollment. Currently Westwood and Sunrise are the first sites to be considered for full time. Elementary swim program is cut for next year as is 6th grade camp. Elementary counselors will be half time next year. "We are not cutting anything from special ed next year however we are tightening our belts." Expecting federal stimulus money but do not know how it will impact programming yet.
6. **Other:** Aaron discussed Special Olympics this school year and will be contacting the City of Enumclaw to see if we can build a relationship. Parents would like to see it offered to elementary aged students. Ramsey stated that Parks and Rec. may have connections to run Special Olympics. Members want to see an additional way to invite parents to SEPAC meetings. Could it possibly be sent over the school messenger system or sending out emails to all students and families?
7. **Parent Advocacy Network:** Ramsey described a training opportunity for teaching advocacy for parent, students and anyone interested. Ramsey is currently setting up a date for this kind of training. Ramsey would like to see a parent advocacy training throughout the school year. Aaron described how the PAN is different from SEPAC. Aaron stated that we would offer a place for the training to occur. Ramsey will provide a flyer to Steve to get district approval.
8. **Westwood Parking Lot:** Aaron stated that he will look into expanding disabled parking availability.
9. **Next meeting is May 11th from 6-8 p.m. in the district office board room.** Possible agenda item to include discussion on time of our meetings.