

District 49 SEAC Meeting

8/14/2023

In Person - Peakview Hall

Welcome/Introductions – Joy Kovanda/Samantha Hollister – Staff/Parent Co Chairs

Special Education Department Update – Rhonda May, Director of Special Education

Rhonda started by proclaiming “Year 1” is underway. The focus this year is on serving students in their school of residence. This goal can be reached by successful monitoring, identifying training needs and areas of support for staff. This year the first full day training for Paras was launched. The “Para of Yet” was held prior to the start of the year. Attendance was amazing. Our para’s were given strategies for managing behaviors as well as instructional strategies in the classroom. Additionally, district Professional Development days will offer extended classes for Paras.

The Embedded Support Team doubled in size this year. They are already off to a good start as they focus on training school staff. In addition to the 2 AN Instructional Coaches, a new SSN Instructional Coach was hired. She will provide the extra support to all schools with an SSN Program.

Rhonda mentioned working with ThinkCerca for help with Instructional/Academic work in Middle and High Schools with a focus on reading and writing.

Board of Education Update – Jamilynn D’Avola

The Board of Education plans to vote to support CASB resolution for increased IDEA funding. Congress has never fully funded the Federal government’s portion of IDEA. CASB however recognizes the efforts of Colorado’s Delegation to add \$1 Billion in the IDEA Reauthorization bill passed by the U.S. House. The CASB urges Colorado’s Delegation to act on IDEA Reauthorization and increase the federal share in the 116th United States Congress before the 2020 election cycle further slows legislative action. Resource Fair – Collaboration with neighboring school districts.

Open Discussion

Meeting preferences were discussed. Samantha stated SEAC will continue to meet on the 2nd Monday of each school calendar month. The only exception would be that the designated day falls over a break. The format of the meeting was discussed with some present stating alternating in-person/Zoom would be ok while others prefer in-person only. There was a suggestion to rotate location as well.

Planning for the Resource Fair is underway. Currently there are 30 vendors who have signed up. Samantha stated we need 20 – 30 more. D11 and D20 will co-host the fair as they did last year. The fair will be held on September 30th at Skyview Middle School. The cost for a table at the fair is \$35 which will offset the cost of various materials such as craft/paint supplies. This year, plans to have tables for “Voter Registration” and “Colorado Disability Law”. Also, there will be therapy companies, Medicare, special Olympics, wheelchair sports camp, and music therapy.

One of the parents suggested setting up a “Facebook page” for D49 Special Education as a resource for other parents.