

District 49 SEAC Meeting

11/13/23

Meeting via ZOOM

- I. Welcome/Introductions – Samantha Hollister – Parent Co Chair
 - a. Samantha noted there were several new faces and asked everyone to introduce themselves to all those in attendance.
- II. Special Education Director – Rhonda May
 - a. Rhonda mentioned an email sent to parents who were chosen at random by CDE to participate in a Special Education Parent Survey. Emails went out a couple of weeks ago. She asked if you did receive the email to please take the time to complete it.
 - b. We continue to have staffing struggles and are not yet fully staffed. She mentioned the staff who are working amid the staff shortages are working hard and doing a great job.
- III. Board of Education – Lori Thompson
 - a. Lori shared CASB passed full funding of the IDEA
 - b. Lori made mention of the newly elected Board members: Marie LaVere-Wright, Mike Heil, and Debra Schmidt
- IV. District Update – Dr. Nancy Lemmond/Peter Hiltz – Not present
- V. Open Items/Discussion
 - a. Deon Cobasky, SWAP Coordinator was asked to provide details about SWAP (School to Work Alliance Program) which is part of the Department of Vocational Rehab. The program is designed to work with students 15 – 24 years of age to help them explore career options and long term careers. They work with students to obtain the skills such as self advocacy , how to disclose their disability and money management. They will provide tours for students as well as information interviews. Help is provided for resume writing and job search. It is work focused and customized to each individual. To join SWAP there is an application process which is quick and easy.
 - b. Resource Fair – Samantha gave a recap of the Resource Fair which was held in September. There was a total of 51 vendors and 225 families attended. Districts 20 and 11 partnered with District 49 this year. We received great feedback from all who attended both vendors and families. There was a charge this year -\$35 per vendor which allowed SEAC to “tip” the building staff at Skyview Middle School for their help. In addition, the funds raised were split between the participating districts who donated the funds to their respective community pantries. All snacks purchased with the funds that were left over were also donated to the community pantries

- c. By Laws – Samantha noted the BOE assistant requested an updated copy of the By-Laws for the SEAC Committee. Samantha mentioned since taking her post in 2017, the by-laws primarily copied from the CDE SEAC site, were mostly outdated and required an update. She asked for help with this task. Cindy Little said she would help. If anyone else would like to help they can contact Samantha via email.
- d. Parent co-Chair – Samantha wanted to put the idea out there to anyone interested in getting involved to consider volunteering for the Parent co-chair of SEAC. She stated she has been the parent co-chair since 2017 and is ready to step down. She has promised to help the incumbent as well as stay involved with SEAC. She explained some of the expectations of the parent co-chair, such as monthly SEAC meetings, preparing agendas which are coordinated with the Director of Special Education to include pressing items. Coordinating and planning the annual Resource Fair. Samantha assured she will help with the planning process. Additionally, SEAC collaborates with the Special Education Director to compose a presentation once/twice a year providing the BOE with items SEAC has been working on. If anyone is interested, send an email to <mailto:d49SEAC@gmail.com>.
- e. PEP - (Parents Encouraging Parents) Conference – the winter conference will be held 1/26 – 1/27 in Aurora. The conference is free of charge. More information can be found on CDE website, <https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/pep>. The spring conference will be held in May.