

Sonoma Valley SEAC

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 17, 2019

Location

SVUSD District Office - 17850 Railroad Avenue - Boardroom 6-7:15pm

CALL TO ORDER

Announcement of Spanish Language Translation Services

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes from 12/20/18

Renea Magnani Approved, Jan seconded

Public Comment

Question regarding who is in charge of Special Ed. All special day classes fall under the site principal and then Lori Stark and and Vanessa Riggs. Diane Roseland is also a point of contact.

Renea - Caryn Prince is the SCOE transition teacher and would love to come and speak with us about the program.

Nona- NPS transportation still an issue. Kids in the shuttle are late every day and not getting service minutes and it is not fair to students. Shuttle drivers are not trained to work with special needs students and do not know how to support without exacerbating the problem. Lori discussed shortage and evidently there is a new driver so that will be resolved. Michelle said that there would be a training but the initial one was cancelled. Mindy - putting transportation on radar of SEAC. Lori is working on getting fill-in drivers when people are sick.

Celeste - Tuesday March 6 - SCOE Transition fair for kids moving from HS to adulthood. Great opportunity to see options.

Abel - Addressed issue of students at SVHS arriving at school and being at a bench behind the school. Celeste suggested making this something to follow up on as a SEAC. Renea said same thing happened at Dunbar, so it is system-wide. Student drop-off and supervision need to be seamless. 15 minute professional expectation/courtesy is not in the contract. Melanie suggests that this is an issue at multiple sites. This will be an ongoing item for the SEAC.

AGENDA

1. Special Education Moment Information

What are 504 plans? - Melody Musgrove

504s remove barriers to learning, adds extended time for tests, etc. There is no standardized form or plan and are much less specific. Less of a safety net than IEPs.

Celeste will send out and share an informative article regarding 504s.

Lisa - attended 504 meeting today. Adele supported the student well with ADHD and dysgraphia...providing multiple options for help so he can choose what works for him.

2. Spanish Language SEAC meeting..... Information

Mario Castillo

Started a project in collaboration with Celeste and Mindy - a support group for Spanish speaking families. So far, they have an invitation and place to meet next week. So far 12 people are coming.

Possible Topics: Improving the way that Spanish speakers are being treated. Harder for Spanish speakers to navigate. Great value to bringing people together.

Contacted Luna and Ana Costa with Matrix...had hour conversation about potential support. Website says that they serve the whole county but there isn't really anything in Sonoma proper. Ideal would be to have whatever comes out of the subgroup to carry through to SEAC to great equal representation. January 24 at 6 at El Verano Spanish Special Ed conversation...Vanessa will come and bring translator

Celeste - equity plan for SEAC would be co-chairs with one being a Spanish speaker and then alternate meetings so that every other one is held in Spanish with English translation.

3. Review of recommendation for District to hire Spanish translator for Special Ed ... Information

Question about translation - district is 57% Latinx but only one translator. Translation needs to happen while things are being said. Translator has to choose between IEPs and other meetings and even leave meetings. Everyone deserves full translation and the ability to fully comprehend the complexities of meetings, IEPs, education. Translators should not be stuck in the position of having to leave IEPs to make other meetings.

Jan - may call for training with the principals, concurrent meetings. Mindy - suggested improved coordination.

Melanie Blake - even if schools rotate IEP days there are more schools than days so it will require more than one trained person. Many sites have translators, so perhaps district could provide special ed training to site translators - these site-based translators know our families and kids and can bring a greater sense of relationship. Suggestion to layer service with backups at sites.

Celeste - We have identified an issue and this is what we are requesting in terms of solving it. It is in its infancy.

Vanessa - Training is coming up at County office through SELPA for translators working in schools. HR director created a list of translation people who qualify to receive this training about expectations, language, etiquette. Jan - Jan 24, 1-4

4. Break out groups for strategic goals 2019 Information

- Identify top three goals for SEAC so that we can hone in on at next meeting

Group 1

- How can IEP work as a team
- Modifications and training being universal among support staff to encourage students to self advocate. Staff can be the experts to support the kids.

Group 2

- Special ed training for assistants, resources, visual aids, tools to truly assist students
- Effort to remove and break down stigma, effort for schools to integrate special ed kids into sports and drama
- Training for parents about programs and processes surrounding special ed

Group 3

- SEAC to work with district of IEP rights regarding minimum expectations including setting timing for IEPs so they are not rushed to end, trained translation, knowing who will be there in advance, opportunity to submit an agenda, minimum amount of time to have the meeting.
- Teaching process of steps showing where you start when you have an issue.
- Standardization of parental education, tools.
- Community outreach and communication to raise awareness - widespread education of community stakeholders.
- Creation of shared vision and mission goals between the SEAC and district special ed. District and parents seem disconnected.
- Identification of case managers.

Group 4

- Parent training, ins and outs of IEPs, who to go to
- Collaboration with gen ed teachers to break down barriers. Goal implementation, understanding modifications.
- Technical information regarding dyslexia, etc. Are individuals getting the training?
- Identifying responsibilities of Special ed in terms of site principals.

5. Future Agenda Items Proposed Information

- Identifying top 3 strategic goals
- Melanie mentioned Listening circles and invited parents and students to share their voices.
- Mario appreciated meetings but thinks they are too focused on High School. Would like update on equity and inclusion task force work that produced similar info. How can SEAC goals align with goals set by Vanessa and Lori, who represent the district.
- Celeste - suggested Mario do this same goal setting process with Mario's group. Celeste offered to type it up so Mario could share.

ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting:

- Thursday, February 21, 6-7:15pm at District Office

Minutes submitted by Emily Raaka