



## Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2023  
ERC

### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Dr. Downing welcomed the committee members and guests. Introductions were made.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee was called to order by Dr. Downing at 6:01 pm.

### **REVIEW OF AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 01/09/2023 MEETING**

There were no changes to the agenda. MEMBER made the first motion. MEMBER seconded the motion.

### **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

There were no changes to the agenda. Gretchen Murphy made the first motion. Trisha Stergios seconded the motion.

### **PUBLIC COMMUNICATION**

Dr. Downing invited those in attendance to address the committee about any item not on the agenda. There were no questions at this time and no input given on the google form provided to members prior to today's meeting.

### **DIRECTORS REPORT**

Dr. Downing addressed the following:

- The MTSS instituted in the district and said that data from the meetings is promising. It is hopeful that providing districtwide Tier 1 supports will reduce those receiving Tier 3 supports.
- Qualifications for SPED were reviewed. The majority of students were qualified for SLI (Speech Language Impairment). It was also broke down by grades as well as male/female. This info will help us identirfy where the greatest needs are as as well as the possibility of overqulaficaiton in some areas.
- CAASSP/CAA data was reviewed. Diane El-Hajj asked for further information on the CAA and the breakdown of how many special education students take the assessments. 25 students currently take the CAA. Discussion was had about how students qualify for the CAA as well as the difficult reality of students with disabilities taking the CAASSP and how SAls try to make it a positive experience.
- A breakdown of staffing was shared. Two additional SDC classrooms were added to help bring classrooms down to smaller sizes. An additional social worker was added as well to support student needs. These are in-house ERMHS service providers and we no longer contract out the service. Clarification was sought on how DHH, VI, O&M, and PT are provided and which are provided through the SELPA.
- Pre-K On My Way: new curriculum was provided for SDC preschool. It's a research-based program that provides a high quality, early intervention.
- EdMark – A reading program for students who are on the more moderate scale of disabilities and were struggling to access the core curriculum R180 in SDC classrooms.
- Future SEAC Meetings – committee members were okay with continuing to meet in-person.

- January 1/23/2024 from 6:00-7:00 pm ERC
- February 27, 2024 (in conjunction with LCAP Annual Review) Location TBD
- May 9, 2024 (in conjunction with DAC from 6:00-7:00 pm) Location TBD

### **ADVISORY QUESTIONS**

Dr. Downing provided time for Advisory Committee questions/comments. Diane El-Hajj asked how things are going and various committee members shared, including that trennials started after Covid are coming due, so there is a heavy assessment load. Two retired psychs are supprting with assessments.

Additional ideas about how the board could support sped and discussions around the following items:

- MTSS limiting the flow of students to special education
- Manpower, having more support at sites, including at the gen. ed. level
  - Would a possibility be child development students from high school?
  - Is there an agreement with universities for students to gain observation hours?
  - Peer Tutoring is an option and one already implemented at many sites.
  - Can we train parents who are willing to volunteer?
- The draw of families to Santee and the services we provde increases our sped percentage.
- How to staff the mod/sev program with people who have enough training, are qualified, and have the willingness to stay and work, especially given pay gap for less strenuous professions
- The conversation also covered the difficulty of finding and keeping mild/mod and mod/sev teachers. This included the discrepancy of SDC teachers not being bale to timecard 10 extra days as other SPED staff are able.
- Has the expansion of TK effected the special education numbers?
- Are students coming into state pre-k or TK already qualified through Regional Center?
- What is the number of students on transfers who also have an IEP? How do we handle revoking transfers equitably to lower numbers?
- Parent Helping Parent trainings were mentioned. An idea to provide training on how to be a classroom volunteer with more academic supports versus busy work.

### **ADJORNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.