

## Meeting Notes

### I. Introductions

Mrs. Jessica Lengle, Director of Special Education, facilitated the meeting. Mrs. Lori Mosser, Secretary to the Director of Special Education attended and took notes for the meeting. Mrs. McLaughlin, Special Education Department Chair, was also in attendance.

Seven parents of students with special needs were in attendance.

### II. Review Meeting Norms

The following meeting norms were reviewed:

1. Maintain confidentiality and respect for other team members at all times.
2. Listen to others with an open mind and ask clarifying questions when something is not understood.
3. Progress, not perfection, will remain at the forefront of discussion.
4. We will keep in mind ALL students and ALL parents.

### III. Mission Statement Development

The following mission statement was reviewed:

The Special Education Parent Advisory Committee exists to advise the WASD on matters relating to *continuous program improvement* efforts as they pertain to special education. We will work to provide *communitywide support* to families of students with special needs from early intervention through 12<sup>th</sup> grade who participate in WASD's special education programs.

### IV. Presentation – Parent to Parent of Pennsylvania, Amy Fisher

Following a parent recommendation, Ms. Fisher was invited to present on the Parent to Parent of Pennsylvania program for parents and families of special needs students. Parent to Parent of Pennsylvania links parents and family members of children and adults with disabilities or special needs on a one-to-one basis according to conditions or concerns. The entire presentation is posted on [wyoarea.org](http://wyoarea.org), under the Student Services tab. Additionally, Ms. Fisher provided the parents in attendance with informational folders. Any parent wishing to have additional information can contact Mrs. Lengle to receive a folder containing additional information on the supports and services available.



## **V. Updates from the Special Education Department**

A training for parents of special needs students in grades 7-12 is planned for May 2, 2019. This training will provide parents with information on post-secondary outcomes – education, employment and independent living. Two presentations will occur that evening to allow parents to participate in the presentation and discussion they think will be most appropriate for their individual child's needs. Mrs. Lally, School Counselor, and Mrs. Beidler, Transition Coordinator, will present on college preparatory assessments and supports and services available throughout the college application process and into college. Mrs. Emerson, JSHS Life Skills Support Teacher, and Mrs. Michael Butterworth, Special Care Planner, will present on post-secondary employment and independent living for low-incidence populations. All Abilities Fitness will be in attendance to provide childcare for parents and families to attend.

Our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Spartan Challenge will be held on June 4, 2019. This event is our own version of Special Olympics. This year we plan to have over 30 students competing in 3-5 athletic events, followed by additional activities. Families are invited to join us as spectators and to have lunch with their child. All members of the SEPAC are also invited to attend. Mrs. Lenge will provide formal invitations to parents in attendance at our May 21<sup>st</sup> SEPAC meeting.

This year, WASD's Annie Sullivan Award nominee is Ms. Sharon Keppley. Ms. Keppley is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and has worked for the district as a contracted employee for more than 11 years. Mrs. Keppley's support to our staff and students has been remarkable and the district is very grateful to have her as part of our special education team.

Parents from our SEPAC are continuing to plan to treat our special education staff to a breakfast at our summer department day. This year's professional development day will be held on Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup>. If parents are interested in helping with this event, they should contact Catherine Mack at [catherine.mack74@gmail.com](mailto:catherine.mack74@gmail.com).

## **VI. Ticket out the Door**

Prior to adjourning the meeting, Mrs. Lenge asked all attendees to share, in writing, what, if any information from our previous meetings they've been able to share with community members.

