

Tri-District Special Ed Services  
Parent Advisory Meeting  
March 10, 2011

Participants:

Anne Dunn, District 67 Representative

Steve Johnson, District 115 Representative

Parents:

Ann Mathee (115)

Pam Preschlack (67)

Carolyn Beckett (115)

Bobbi Logan (115)

Jennifer Riley (LDS Rep and 67)

Sherry Gillen (115)

Kristina Tober (67)

Absent:

Fran Pease

Concerns/comments discussed:

1. Reviewed agenda and minutes from last meeting

- Comments about NSSRA that were not in minutes from last meeting. How the connection with NSSED is strong. NSSRA is North Shore based. What is the availability of NSSRA for students? Idea of west corridor is of major concern. Will students be isolated? Point is not if parents can do NSSRA but how it is integrated into student's lives.
- Concern about having no board members/superintendent at meeting. Anne Dunn relates this information back to the decision makers.
- Biggest decision in Dr. Griffith's career at LFHS and District 67.
- Open line of communication between family, community and schools.
- Process seems to be slowing down, which is a positive.
- Does every student with IEP need to get flyer for the March 23 meeting?
- Parent meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> is a conflict with choral concert at high school.
- Minutes from January meeting posted?
- Question: Is there a way to tier the services between elementary and high school services? Do all three districts need to make same decision?
- Transition committee developed this April to specifically discuss transition services.
- Question: Are the districts going to combine early childhood programs? Anne discussed how each district wanted to have students in their community. At this time D65 and D67 will run separate pre-schools.
- Difficult to project what services students need as students age up. That is why NSSED is important for their expertise. Districts still consult and tap into other experts in the field.

- High school and Lake Bluff have not taken advantage of NSEED membership (professional development, consultants, etc.)
- Is there a list of NSEED services that are currently available to districts and parents?
- NSEED has to change. They need to be pushed to change to ensure districts don't leave.
- Packet with NSEED description and what services are available. Give to all parents with IEP and all Special Education teachers.

## 2. Survey Discussion

- Searched what was common theme in surveys.
- What is the purpose of the survey? How does survey effect the decision to part ways with NSEED? Surveys will be used to self examine current programs to determine strengths and weaknesses and determine if students feel successful.
- Concern about questions that are being asked to the students. Concern that students may not understand concepts of questions.
- Questions need to be more specific and break down questions into topics (ex. social, academic).
- Do we need to survey students at all? Group feels that only parents need to be surveyed.
- Idea to have the 8 questions and 2 questions on survey monkey for ease of completing with comment boxes.
- Get rid of one of the options on the rating scale. The mostly satisfied #3 option will be eliminated.

## 3. FAQ

- Question about who were the community members involved in action plan.
- 3 - Names of people present (board member names)
- 4 - Delete second questions about transition parent involvement-none applied. Committee members felt that transition parents did not know about the application.
- 7 - Evaluation of programs to be done on multiple levels including parent feedback. Parent Advisory Committee should be used as a partnership.
- 6 - Financial information should be better explained to dispel the concerns about costs of special education.
- 15 - List schools as public or private. Concerned about stating that our students attend schools not in north shore area
- Question about whether or not all districts must enter agreement together or can they be separate.

## 4. New concerns/questions to be explored

- 1 – Would any of the schools consider not joining the other schools in leaving the co-op?

- 2 – Financial information needed to determine real savings and what would that mean to the communities tax burden?
- What is specifically being budgeted for in the new programs and what are actual savings.
- Sharing minutes with board members.
- Discussion took place regarding retirement of administrators. Committee was assured that while several people will retire, many still remain that are actively involved in this process.