

**AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC) MINUTES**

Date: January 30, 2020

Location: Austin ISD Southfield Building, 2nd Floor PD Room

SEAC ATTENDEES:

Lance Kinney, Maria Hernandez, Heather Merritt, Chad Johnson, Patricia Corley, Enrique Trejo, Chad Ouellette, Lisa Flores, Jolene Sanders

AUSTIN ISD ATTENDEES:

Dr. Stephanie Hawley, Melody McIntosh, Christa Etheridge, Christina Smith, Tongula Kiner, Alethia Ostfeld, Ramon Vega, Kim Royal, Jennifer Limon

WELCOME:

Meeting began at 6:10 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

SPECIAL EDUCATION EQUITY WORK SESSION:

Dr. Stephanie Hawley was the group facilitator for the work session around Equity in Special Education. Dr. Hawley shared a presentation around equity and looking at things through a lens of equity. The committee was broken into groups and asked to work together to problem-solve.

- Group 1:
- Problem: #6 Subset 2 and 1
- Solutions:
 - The group shared that they wanted to adopt true, thorough inclusive policies
 - They shared that currently there aren't good uniform inclusive policies about disability
 - We need to ensure parent and student engagement. The feedback has to be bi-directional.
 - We need fully accessible resources.
 - Develop parent leaders that can support communities specific to disabilities.
 - If 1 out of 8 kids has an IEP, then 1 out of 8 days need to be special education for all.
 - The Read by 3 focus should be all grades, not just by 3rd grade.
 - We need to think similarly to the literacy plan: during, in, and beyond.
 - Professional Learning should be provided for campus administrators.
 - We need to develop parent leaders to help other parents.
 - The district should staff ARD Facilitators so teachers can teach.
 - Low expectations and high standards should be changed to acknowledge the learning curve and not go directly to punishment.

- Bridge the gap with Early Childhood and Pre-K 3 programs and making sure PPCD is that is included.
- Group 2
- Problem: Lack of community programs for parents
- Solutions included:
 - Parent Support Liasion in the Special Education department.
 - Cross-training and cross working with other networks and providing the same information across the district.
 - Examples of training could include ARD 101, a continuum of services.
- Group 3
- Problem: Problem came up in 2014 where a parent complained about students meeting all their goals in the IEP. How do you help parents know what they don't know?
- Solutions:
 - Hire an Administrative Supervisor for Early Childhood Special Education, Transition Specialist
 - Provide training for STS and parents PK-12
 - TIP training should include special education
 - Hold meetings and training for parents not just during the day
 - Yelp
 - Provide training for parents, training topics could include:
 - Onboarding to the special education world. What to expect as a new parent to special education?
 - What Special Education is like in Austin ISD
 - What is the difference between schools and service offerings
 - Learning from veteran parents
 - Remember the ARD as a process, not an event
 - Sharing information with parents and teachers
 - Consultation training
 - Add a special education tile to the parent portal
 - Parent ambassador program - (Campus Parent Representative/Ambassador) they partnered with the parent support specialist. Parent Videos to include orientation, on-boarding, etc. Reach out to the Journalism department.
- Group 4
- Problem: Engaging students and parents
- Solution:
 - Access different people and engage in different ways that talk to everyone's experience.
 - Help provide resources.
 - Bring in evidence-based practices to the discussions. How do we bridge the gap?

- Within SPED there is a contact made with student, parent, and administration. Could we add a layer to IEP for parent feedback? We are moving to a new program
- Group 5
- Problem: #3 Over identification of minorities
- Solution:
 - Take into consideration the cultural background of our students.
 - Have the knowledge to know what test you are supposed to be using.
 - Its differences vs disabilities.
 - Review current practices by staff

Dr. Hawley shared that she would be reviewing the information gathered and it will be used to support the district in developing its equity plan.

CLOSING:

Meeting ended at 8:00 pm.