

09-19-19 BOARD WORKSHOP: SPECIAL EDUCATION

9/19/2019 [6:30PM-7:15PM] @ High School LGI Room

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1. WELCOME - Mr. Blevins

Minutes

Mr. Blevins called the workshop to order at 6:32 p.m. with all board members in attendance except for Michael Jones.

Other attendees included Board Secretary Lisa Kirby and these administrators: Dr. Greg Anderson, Marcus Bouchillon, Dr. Joshua Doll, Keith Dyke, Dr. Steph Ferree, Brett Frey, Dr. Erin Heffler, Kelly Kessler, Amy Kostoff, Chip Patterson and Tom Stauffer.

2. PRESENTATION: STATUS OF PROGRAM AND FUTURE TRENDS - Dr. Doll / Mr. Frey

Minutes

Dr. Doll mentioned that our director of special education annually presents to the Board. Although this did not occur last year, due to a transition in personnel, we are extremely pleased and proud of our new director, Mr. Brett Frey, and his team. We are cognizant that these services and programming serve as a major budgetary driver. To that end, this presentation is the kickoff of our budgetary discussions as we prepare for our 2020-2021 budget.

Mr. Frey first introduced the staff in attendance: Amy Kostoff - Assistant Director; Jill Trimmer - Emotional Support Behavior Specialist; school psychologists - Chris Bertok, Carey Miller, Jen Eckert and Nicole Rook; and, these subject area leaders - Ashley Gentzler (K-3), Jamie Gorseger (4-6), Catherine Ross (7-8) and Andrew Schneider (9-12).

He used Kahoot! to quiz the board members with three general knowledge questions and highlighted the following topics during his presentation:

- Implementing the recommendations from our Compliance Monitoring Audit.
 - The August 19th department meeting; the first in seven years.
 - Monthly Subject Area Leader Meetings
 - The three-hour Paraprofessional Development Program on August 20th and other training efforts.
 - Three department goals for the 2019-20 school year: Compassion, Compliance and Curriculum/Instruction.
 - The various roles of our two behavior specialists.
 - The building assignments and roles of our four school psychologists.
 - The rise in behavioral, developmental and mental health needs.
 - Data comparisons across York County and our growth trend.
 - The new Behavioral Intervention K-6 Program which is a cost savings while maintaining the family relationship.
 - Placement percentages in and out of the district and the costs related to outside placements.
 - An analysis of IU- and District-operated costs.
 - The benefits and challenges of district-operated programs and the need for resources as the population grows.
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(WORKSHOP - Special Ed Overview Board Presentation Updated with PD and Para.pdf attached)

3. Q & A SESSION

Minutes

Mr. Noll asked about state mandates and reaching capacity with facility space. While we don't have to operate the program, we must find an appropriate placement if not offered in-house. We currently exceed our fair-share requirement with the LIU which could be reconsidered if necessary.

Mrs. Trout asked for the meaning of ADM, which stands for Average Daily Membership.

Mrs. Heistand appreciated the overview and mentioned the LIU challenge with finding special education teachers. It was also confirmed that the number of enrolled students shared in the presentation includes LIU students.

Mr. Hartman wondered how soon we evaluate an incoming student and about the reliability of that IEP. A re-evaluation would happen over time, not immediately.

Mr. Pantano inquired who would determine the level of appropriateness for the program, which falls on the IEP team.

Mr. Noll asked about state reimbursement which is about \$12,000-\$13,000 for regular education students and doubled for special education.

Mr. Rohrbaugh mentioned administration's goal to bring position requests earlier in the budget development process.

Mr. Blevins compared the state average last year (17%) to ours (16.9%) noting that our percentage of the special education population appears to be growing faster than regular education; he wondered if we are a 'magnet.' Mr. Frey affirmed our reputation.

Mr. Bentzel referred to recent comments in a History Channel program.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Minutes

The workshop adjourned around 7:20 p.m. for a short break prior to the Board Meeting.
