

SEA Planning Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2020 7pm

Attendance: Sandy Katz, Peg Herbison, Julie Stephens, Reba Mann, Colleen Kutz, Tommy Avelar, Karen Lutz, Zenia Ardensha, Ramona de la Rosa, Michelle Greenawalt

Our Mission:

The Special Education Alliance provides a **network of support** for parents and caregivers of students with developmental or physical disabilities. The SEA offers **access to relevant information and education** while **providing opportunities to connect with other parents/caregivers**. We **advocate for the collaboration** among families, school administrators, educators and professionals to foster successful educational outcomes.

Critical Initiatives for 2019/2020

More family events

Collaborate more with district to drive awareness of our committee/events

Increase fundraising efforts

Discuss any changes in critical initiatives for 2020/2021:

Remove fundraising as a critical initiative unless we have a specific goal to raise money for

Add Support the District in bringing inclusion to our schools

Critical Initiatives for 2020/2021

More family events

Collaborate more with district to drive awareness of our committee/events

Collaborate with the district on development of plans for inclusive practices k-12

- **Presentations/Events:** If in person events, LGI 1 at Arcola will be reserved - 6:30-9:30pm
- Netflix movie event - Ralph breaks the internet
 - Had about 10 participants
 - They asked about another one and how they would find out
 - Konstell and/or mail chimp would be used to get the word out
- Virtual Event Ideas:
 - MMTA is having short dance parties and joke parties that seem to be going well. EFEPA does monthly crafts. Virtual show and tell. - Ideas for us to try, separate by age group
 - geocaching
 - games

Discuss dates/topics

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- Topic ideas
 - Executive function for virtual learning
 - ask the attorneys with a focus on the current world

- how to include our kids in a virtual world
- Executive function topic for the kids to learn about it
- Meet and Greet (parent social)
- Possible dates: third Thursdays: 10/15, 11/19, 1/21, 2/18, 3/18, 4/15, 5/20
- Virtual vs. in person or some hybrid- Zoom or Facebook live
- Previous presentations that were cancelled will try to reschedule for the following dates

10/15- Inclusion for K-12 and Beyond - Ann Marie Licata, Ph.D., Director, PA
Inclusive Higher Education Consortium - Ramona

Ramona will get markers and giant post it notes

Ask for presentation to send out to attendees ahead of time

Need an easel for the presenter - ask Sophie at Arcola

snoblit@methacton.org

11/19- Empowering U/Pillars of Light and Love- Kathy Opperman- Jodi

- Panel of a parent/nurse of a nonverbal special needs child, an emotional support teacher at PV school, and Kathy who teaches stress management
- Topic ideas:
 - How to manage stress of everyday needs, appointments, etc for special needs child
 - How to find time for oneself and the importance of it
 - How to not feel isolated from others... especially those with neuro-typical children
 - Worrying about your child's future
 - Balance work and child's needs
 - Stress on a marriage
 - How to not to be overwhelmed with all the decisions and second guessing the ones you have made
 - How parents can help a child with anxiety
 - homework, demands of school, lack of friends, lack of social skills
 - How to help your child not feel isolated
 - Self esteem
- Offers programs to lower stress , improve coping skills, and build resilience
- Goal is to educate youth and adults to reduce stress, strengthen self-esteem, overcome anxiety, build confidence, achieve effective coping, positive communication skills, and healthy relationships.

● **Budget:** Michelle

- Budget: \$2515.43

- We will maintain our own spreadsheets so we know how much we have and spent
- Thoughts on how to spend it:
 - use for speakers
 - possibly ask MEF to help fund a bigger speaker
 - socials events
 - possibly allocate a % by critical initiatives
- **Fundraisers: Karen/Colleen**
 - **New ideas:**
 - clothing collection- Colleen
 - Fruit sale at holidays
 - Corropolese - dine and donate - Peg will check on how successful it was
 - Design a t-shirt or other items and sell them- kids submit art to use - maybe do a mosaic of all of the art submitted
 - Talk to Amy Smith for ideas
 - Reading Phillies - purchase a book of 6 tickets for \$39 and can use at any game
 - can pay by paypal or on baseballtown.com
- **Updates:**
 1. **Inclusion - SEA** met via Zoom with Dr. Zerbe, Dr. Angstadt, Dr. Mangano and special ed supervisors on June 4. The administrators shared data and information around the roll out inclusion committees throughout the district. The administrators requested our feedback and will continue to look to us to provide input as they move forward. We expressed the need for an outside consultant to provide professional development to our educators to assist in including our children. The administrators have committed to putting a timeline together for their continued work around inclusive practices. IEP teams should discuss changes to teachers or classrooms like the communication class with parents in the confines of the IEP process to determine the appropriate supports and services to include our children. Additional concerns raised tonight around students that are non-verbal and not able to engage in a virtual (Zoom) platform academically or socially; isolation was detrimental to students. **Action: Discuss these concerns with administration**
 2. **Unified Sports update: Karen**

- a. Possibly order a tent and banner for Unified Sports from SEA
- b. Will bocci be added?
- c. Plans for launch of Track & Field Spring 2021

3. Best Buddies communication: Karen

- a. Communication is confusing. Can join Remind as the parent and as the child separately and the communications are different
- b. Accountability for the Best Buddies for what/how much they are doing together
- c. connect with Dominic Meoli to support him as president of BB
- d. Recognize the BB seniors at awards ceremony and/or graduation

Action: Unified Sports/Best Buddies - meeting with Specht, Alzamorra, Quintois, Gravinese to discuss SEA support - Karen

- **New business:**

- 1. Transitioning the SEA co-chairs**

- a. need someone to step up by September to shadow for a few months and then step in for Sandy

- 2. Tommy's idea for social group for kids**

- a. hold it at the school, parents attend with child, have an ice breaker and snack
- b. Linda Ehmer and Dan McDonough - ask them to help with the plans
- c. Hold at each school, separate by grades 1-2,3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12
- d. not special needs kids specific - offer to all kids
- e. need to go through the school to get approval

- 3. Transition meeting in August for parents moving to next Methacton building including principal and supervisor of special ed.- Action: Sandy will follow up with principals and supervisors about plans for transitions for rising students.**

- 4. Kindergarten meeting - Zenia**

- a. Will reach out to Tim again this year

- 5. Meeting with Nikki Brislin**

- a. understand the Transition Coordinator role.

- 6. Meeting with Career Counselor K-12 (Judy Schmidt retired)**

a. understand how Career Will try to schedule this meeting this year

7. Identify additional reps for all schools - MCC, All

8. Meet with Amanda Kelly - website quicklink on SEA, placement of SEA activities on calendar- possibly try to schedule this after the school year starts

9. Have people volunteer to go to MCC meetings and Education committee meetings- *get the dates together and have a sign up sheet - Tommy*

10.Engagement:

a. Brian Shaffer, Principal at Worcester

b. Board Members (Jen Cancro and Paul Winters)

11. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force

SEA and DEI - alignment of goals; suggest collaboration as it relates to inclusion

● **Home and School meeting updates: (Important highlights only)**

○ **Back to school nights-** *need to get dates, will it be in person or virtual, can we add a short video about SEA to any video presentations*

○ Talk to Katie Shireman about communication between MCC and SEA - the video idea since she wants to do it for MCC also- we also lost our ability to use Konstella - *Tommy will talk to her about a Zoom meeting in July*

○ *Reba will reach out to Nikki Krelovich about how/who did her video for Back to School night last year*

Methacton School Board/Board Education Committee

Methacton High School -

Arcola-

Skyview -

Arrowhead -

Eagleville-

Woodland-

Worcester -

MCC meeting update -