

**GREEN BROOK TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Date: June 10, 2015**

Present:

Parent Representatives:

Cynthia Espinosa, Diana Gonzalez, April Larsen & Stephen Larsen, Gloria & William Ortiz

School District Representatives:

Marydenise Appio, Kevin Carroll, Dr. Emilia Muglia, Derek Ressa

Guest:

James Bigsby

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TOPIC</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reports - Old Business w/outcomes & decisions - New Business w/outcomes & decisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Topics for Next Meeting/Conclusions 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>DISCUSSION</u></p> <p>Include the content & details of items discussed in all topics. Please include who provided the information.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>FOLLOW-UP / ACTION PLAN</u></p> <p><i>What, Who, When, How</i> (Names, Timeline for Resolution, How and When it will be Monitored)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are you tracking and why? - What are you looking to improve? - How are you tracking it & has it improved?
<p>CST Coordinator Report</p>	<p>Dr. Muglia began the meeting by reporting to the council that the Child Study Team recently attended the Children's Interagency Coordinating Council Resource (CIACC) Resource Fair which took place on Wednesday June 3. Dr. Muglia shared that the event was presented in a format that allowed child study teams and other school district representatives to come and ask questions and acquire information. Dr. Muglia reported that the fair was very informative, and she and the CST were able to bring back a great deal of literature from the organizations and agencies represented. Dr. Muglia shared specific examples of the types of support available to parents, and explained that much is afforded to parents at little to no cost to them. Also shared was that the resources are available in the child study team office, as well as the nurse's office at the I.E.F. Elementary School going forward.</p>	

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<p>Director of Special Education Report</p>	<p>During his report, Mr. Ressa shared about the district's successful transition to the PARCC and DLM assessments for the 2014-15 school year. Also, he shared how the assessments were administered successfully for special education students.</p> <p>Mr. Ressa next shared about the district's plans to expand upon current screening methods for students that are suspected of possessing reading disabilities such as dyslexia. He shared that the district was able to satisfy the state mandate for 2 hours of professional development for specific staff members. Mr. Ressa then shared that going forward for 2015-16, the district will move to screening specific students that show signs of reading disabilities.</p> <p>Mr. Ressa then moved to a review of the district current self-contained special education programs, including the K-4 Learning and Language Disabled, the 5-8 Learning and Language Disabled, the Preschool ABA program, and the Integrated Preschool programs. He also discussed a goal of the school district is to develop new programs that meet the needs of special education students served by the district.</p> <p>Mr. Ressa concluded his presentation with an overview of Camp PAWS, the district inclusion-based extended school year program scheduled for summer 2015. He indicated that the district is expecting 70-90 general education and special education students. Mr. Ressa stated the theme of this year's program is Camp PAWS is "on Broadway!" He shared the dates and times of the program. Mr. Ressa shared about the various day trips the</p>	

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<p>SEAC Presents/Supports</p>	<p>students will be taking. He also shared about numerous performance events during the camp summer. And finally, Mr. Ressa shared the multiple related arts special classes that students will participate in, which include STEM, PE, and Fine/Performing Arts, Social skills, and Gifted and Talented Enrichment.</p> <p>Dr. Bigsby, the first year principal of Green Brook Middle School, spoke as Principal and a parent of a child with special needs. He shared how his own experience as a parent of a child with special needs defined and transformed his approach to education. Topics from Dr. Bigsby's comments included focusing on what children can do and not what they cannot do. He shared about the importance of parents to advocate for their children, and to partner with districts to make sure they are providing what their child needs. Dr. Bigsby also shared about Sir Ken Robertson and his unique and forward perspective on education. He then shared a goal of his as an educator is to help his students find a career and make a living that will make them happy. Also, Dr. Bigsby stressed the importance of building relationships with students. And he shared his main project of doing this will be the new schedule at the middle school in 2015-16, which will afford students more choice and flexibility for academic enrichment, academic support, and the development of peer groups. Additionally, Mr. Carroll and Mr. Ressa shared their thoughts and vision for the school district when it comes to program and curricular development. Overall, it was a moving and inspirational message from Dr. Bigsby that reminded parents and educators</p>	

