

**GREEN BROOK TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Date: January 5, 2017**

Present:

Parent Representatives:

Femmy Dato, Cynthia Espinosa, Cathy Gennaro, Edwin Lohner, Ximena Medina, Antionette Ramirez, Kristi Purcell-Walton, R.S. Santos, Katherine Stever

School District Representatives:

Derek Ressa

| <u>TOPIC</u> | <u>DISCUSSION</u> | <u>FOLLOW-UP / ACTION PLAN</u> |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reports - Old Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> w/outcomes & decisions - New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> w/outcomes & decisions - Topics for Next Meeting/Conclusions | <p>Include the content & details of items discussed in all topics. Please include who provided the information.</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>Introductions of Parents and Staff</p> | <p>All participants introduced themselves.</p> | |
| <p>Director of Student Services Report</p> | <p>Mr. Ressa began with an explanation of the reason for the locale of the meeting. His intention is to create a less formal setting for parents to pose questions, provide feedback, and support one another. Mr. Ressa next moved to a review of the of the continuum of special education programs available in the district, answering questions from parents as they arose.</p> | |
| <p>Other Agenda Items</p> | <p>Mr. Ressa opened a discussion to garner parent input about policies, programs, and practices in the district. One parent gave a suggestion about how to improve communication from the related services staff. One parent shared about helpful programs offered by the Green Brook Education and Athletic Foundation. Lastly, Mr. Ressa and parents discussed the district's Extended School Year program for students with the most severe special needs. Mr. Ressa explained that the</p> | <p style="color: red;">Mr. Ressa will reach out to district staff about communication methods.</p> |

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|--|--|---|
| <p>Handouts</p> <p>The next SEAC meeting will take place in April 6 at Green Brook Middle School.</p> | <p>Department of Student Services is carefully looking at data to drive decision-making on what students are eligible for the program.</p> <p>Mr. Ressa then opened a discussion on the education, health, and safety of children with special needs in the district. One parent suggested a review of pick-up and drop-off procedures at I.E.F. Elementary School. Other parents offered feedback on the utilization of behaviorists and therapists in the district.</p> <p>Mr. Ressa then gathered feedback from parents on what topics they would like to learn more about for the purpose of acquiring a guest speaker. Topics suggested included transitioning, learning about self-contained programs from teachers, and lessons from the district therapists on strategies to use at home.</p> <p>Lastly, the committee moved to an open discussion. This included comments and questions from parents to each other for support on specific needs, and feedback on how to support the needs of all students, including special education, ESL, and the gifted learner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Agenda</i> | <p>Mr. Ressa will reach out to district administration about these items.</p> <p>Mr. Ressa will seek out a guest speaker for the next meeting on one of these topics.</p> |

Respectfully submitted,

Derek Ressa