

**GREEN BROOK TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
Date: October 6, 2016**

**Present:**

**Parent Representatives:**

Janette & Kevin Bennett, Eva Chun, Diana Gonzalez, Antionette Katakan, Edwin Lohner, Rajul Vyas

**School District Representatives:**

Dr. Emilia Muglia, Derek Ressa, Bernadette Van Pelt

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>FOLLOW-UP / ACTION PLAN</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reports</li> <li>- Old Business w/outcomes &amp; decisions</li> <li>- New Business w/outcomes &amp; decisions               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Topics for Next Meeting/Conclusions</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Include the content &amp; 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"> <li>- What are you tracking and why?</li> <li>- What are you looking to improve?</li> <li>- How are you tracking it &amp; has it improved?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Introductions of Parents and Staff</b></p>	<p>All participants introduced themselves, including the Child Study Team members in attendance. Both case managers, Dr. Muglia and Ms. Van Pelt, shared their thoughts on the start of the school year and the positive feedback thus far from staff regarding supports and services provided to students and programs. Also, Dr. Muglia shared that the Child Study Team will be attending the 34<sup>th</sup> annual AutismNJ Conference on October 26-27, in order to obtain information on how the district can best support students with this disorder.</p>	
<p><b>Director of Student Services Report</b></p>	<p>Mr. Ressa began with a presentation of the continuum of special education services, staff, and resources available in the district. Mr. Ressa then moved to a review of the specific special programs, including the K-1, 2-4, and 5-8 Learning and Language Disabilities programs, the 5-8 Behavioral Disabilities program, the ABA Intensive Preschool program, the Integrated Preschool program, and instructional support programs provided in both schools.</p> <p>Mr. Ressa concluded with a review of district departmental goals in special</p>	

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<p><b>Other Agenda Items</b></p>	<p>services for the 2016-17 school year. These included a focus on data-driven</p> <p>IEP Goals &amp; Objectives, less of a reliance on instructional aides for students, and an ongoing data-collection to justify the need for Extended School Year programs for students.</p> <p>The committee moved to an open discussion. This included comments and questions from parents on the special services department goals, available resources, the philosophy of education in the district, and feedback on how to support the needs of all students, from special education to the gifted learner.</p> <p>The conversation then transitioned into a discussion of how the district can become more transparent with disseminating information to the community about items such as Common Core State Standards, district curriculum, professional development, and resources for their children. It concluded with a discussion of how the district could provide more opportunities for families to take an active role in their child's education.</p> <p>Lastly, Mr. Ressa shared the district will gather feedback from parents regarding a guest speaker for the April 6 SEAC meeting. And to provide a more relaxed and inviting atmosphere for parents, the district will attempt to hold SEAC Parent Coffees out in the community on two other days during the school year. More information about these events will be forthcoming.</p>	<p>Mr. Ressa will reach out to district administration and staff to share parent questions and feedback in order to help support district programs and initiatives.</p>
<p><b>Handouts</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Agenda</i></li> </ul>	

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<p>The next SEAC meeting will take place in <b>January</b> at a neutral location.</p>		

Respectfully submitted,

Derek Ressa