

**GREEN BROOK TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY GROUP
MEETING MINUTES
March 21, 2019**

Parent Representatives:

Qiu Burns, Michael Espinosa, Hollie Gilroy, Lisa Gulyas, Bo Li, Zaiwei Liu, Erwin Lohner, Kristi Walton

School District Representatives:

Derek Ressa

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>FOLLOW-UP / ACTION PLAN</u>
<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>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>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>Discussion Items</p>	<p>Mr. Ressa welcomed the parents to the meeting and introductions were provided by parents.</p> <p>The following agenda items included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meet & Greet 2. Review 2018-19 SEPAG Goals & Priorities 3. Planning for Outreach Events 4. Arc of NJ Presentations (May 23, 2019) 5. Next Meeting: May 23, 2019 6. Questions/Comments/Wrap-Up <p>After Meet & Greet, the group reviewed its' vision and mission statements, as well as the three goals set by the group earlier in the school year.</p> <p>Next the discussion turned to the Department of Student Services Big Brother/Big Sister program and some misunderstandings that</p>	<p style="color: red;">Feedback was received by the district and plans were made to address these concerns.</p>

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	<p>needed to be cleared up. Also, one parent suggested that the district utilize ParentSquare to deliver important information to parents of special education students. This will be explored.</p> <p>Third, the group spent time planning events for Autism Awareness Month in April. First, they discussed using bulletin boards and marquees in both school buildings to promote awareness. Next, the group finalized discussion about a district Jeans Day fundraiser on April 5. Also, the group viewed information about a high school student who will be presenting to GBTPS students about what is like to have autism. Lastly, parents and guardians finalized the first issue of a SEPAG Newsletter which included impressions, ideas, and comments from parents about the district SEPAG and their experiences having a child with Autism. This issue will be released to the district in April 2019.</p> <p>Fourth, the group discussed a finalized presentation by the Somerset Arc of NJ on May 23, 2019 with topics of support services and understanding the special education system.</p> <p>Fifth, the parents received information about recent community events for parents of students with special needs, as well as a parent meeting held at the end of the school year discussing</p>	<p>The group planned extensively for these activities with the goal to advertise, promote, and educate district students and parents.</p> <p>More information about this event will be forthcoming.</p> <p>Mr. Ressa shared that more information would come about ESY as we move towards the end of the school year.</p>

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<p>Handouts & Resources</p>	<p>the upcoming Extended School Year program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEPAG Meeting Agenda (handout) • SEPAG Action Planning Overview 18-19 https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_Eoyh1T9r4Rj-bQbneBctrQY7zGN_2MmYoHik4oWFOI/edit?usp=sharing • GBTPS SEPAG https://www.gbtps.org/special-services/sepag/ 	<p>The next meeting will be an Arc of NJ Presentation to take place on Thursday May 23, 2019 at Green Brook Middle School from 7:00-9:00.</p>

Respectfully submitted,

Derek Ressa