

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64
Minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting held at 6:00 p.m.
December 19, 2018
Carpenter School - LRC
300 N. Hamlin, Park Ridge, IL 60068**

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Board member and committee co-chairperson Fred Sanchez. Also present were: District 64 Director of Student Services Lea Anne Frost; District 64 Assistant Director of Student Services Sue Waughon; Amy Brown; Barb Spiewak; Lynn Condon; Miki Tesija; and Kay Schneider. Board member and committee co-chairperson Larry Ryles and committee members Rick Van Roeyen, Kristin Davis, and Dr. Laurie Heinz were absent. In addition, five members of the public were present.

Committee co-chairperson Sanchez began the meeting by responding to a comment noted on Facebook which had indicated that the Board had fixed special education. He shared that there has certainly been a lot of steps to make improvements, but reiterated that Dr. Frost will continue to do more work in the special education department. Even when this committee disbands, Committee co-chairperson Sanchez shared that PT3 will continue to focus on work to make more improvements for special education.

Board Update Report from November to December 2018

Dr. Frost provided a summary of the board update report. She shared that there was an abundance of comments provided on the Special Education Needs Assessment, which will require time to code and analyze. Dr. Frost highlighted the recommendation for an additional part-time coordinator to relieve Ms. Waughon of her responsibilities at Roosevelt Elementary School. Committee co-chairperson Sanchez commented that the Board voted unanimously to approve this position. Dr. Frost provided updates on professional development opportunities for special education team members, specifically highlighting CPI. Committee member Schneider inquired about the process used to determine which team members get trained. Ms. Waughon shared that the goal is for all special education team members to be trained, including teacher assistants. Dr. Frost indicated that it is the goal to increase the number of trainers within the District for the next school year. Dr. Frost continued in her report noting the efforts in the key target areas of consistency and message of inclusion. Dr. Frost summarized updates on the four key target areas identified from the two prior audits. She noted that additional summaries were provided in the board report on the focus priorities from the audit findings. Committee Member Tesija asked for further explanation of the additional summaries and Dr. Frost provided the update that was presented at the December 10 Board meeting. Committee member Spiewak asked how it was determined which IEP meetings Dr. Frost and Ms. Waughon attend. Dr. Frost reported that it is not feasible for she and Ms. Waughon to attend all IEP meetings, so they are prioritized based upon the potential need for allocation of additional resources. Committee member Tesija asked for more explanation of the five curriculum pilot programs. Dr. Frost

reiterated that the curriculum programs are only pilots at this point. She reported that the special education team will begin to create a tiered system of curriculum options for students following winter break. Dr. Frost then highlighted future planning with a focus on the four key target areas. Ms. Tesija inquired about the expectation for delivery of the curriculum relative to disability awareness. Dr. Frost responded that it has not been discussed, and that implementation of the curriculum is optional. Committee member Tesija suggested that it may be helpful to have a kick off at the beginning of the school year that includes informing all students about their peers with all disabilities within each school.

Parents and Teachers Talking Together (PT3) Update

Ms. Waughon reported that the PT3 group met on December 11. She reported that a majority of the evening was spent as a work session for each priority group. The groups reviewed the previous recommendations and considered their appropriateness for continuation or for necessary changes. They also defined goals and activities for each of the recommendations. Each sub-group acknowledged that some of the work that was determined would not be at the direction of the committee but would fall to administration. The purpose of PT3 was also discussed by the full group which included continued and proactive advocacy for students and being a collaborative stakeholder group. The goal of this group is to continue the forward momentum to continuously improve our services.

A question was posed by Committee member Brown as to the purpose of the Special Education Board Committee. Committee co-chairperson Sanchez indicated that PT3 is doing a lot of the “heavy lifting” and this committee would be the group PT3 would come to as a liaison. He further indicated that once this committee was confident and comfortable of what PT3 defined as their work, this group would be the conduit to the Board for Board approval. He also indicated that the Special Education Board Committee would attempt to rebuild communication and trust. He noted the progress made within the department thus far but wants to hear from PT3 that the progress is being done and made. Committee member Tesija asked if PT3 would come to the Special Education Board Committee to discuss their work. Committee co-chairperson Sanchez shared there is a lot of flexibility in ways this committee can be updated on the work of PT3. Dr. Frost commented that the sub-groups are very collaborative, so there has not been any defined chairs or leaders. Committee member Brown shared that there is a sense of duplicated efforts between this committee and PT3. She asked if this committee is worth committee members’ time and if the committee should halt work to avoid duplication. She commented most of the agenda for this evening had been discussed at last week’s Board meeting. Committee co-chairperson Sanchez shared that duplicated efforts are certainly a concern, but felt there is still some value for this committee to continue meeting. Committee member Tesija shared concern about the point of this committee given the detailed board reports provided by Dr. Frost each month. Dr. Frost clarified that PT3 is not expecting this committee to evaluate their recommendations, but rather review them and offer additional suggestions.

Committee member Tesija inquired about the continuum of services offered in the District given that was an area of concern identified in the audit reports. Dr. Frost acknowledged there was a lot of duplication between the two audit reports, so items were combined when determining the 11 audit findings. Dr. Frost reported that there needed to be prioritization of action steps to address the audit findings. She shared that there will be completion of all action steps, but we need to ensure we focus on those that are most important for students first to ensure they are done well.

Discussion of PTA/O and Sped Parent Liaisons

Committee member Tesija reported that the PTO/A is attempting to identify parents within each building as a special education representative to the PTO/A. The goal is to have a similar structure in each of the buildings as those currently defined at Washington and Roosevelt schools. Committee members Tesija, Brown, and Spiewak indicated that parents wanted to take the lead on this aspect and decided to do it on their own. Committee member Condon asked that there be diversity within the group, so it is not always representation of parents of students with the most intense needs. There was discussion of tapping into the D64 Facebook page and not just the D64 special education parents Facebook page.

Facilitated IEP Training Registration

Dr. Frost informed committee members about the registration form to complete with their interest to attend the training. They can also contact the department secretary Stephanie Rosales to get registered.

Scheduling of Upcoming Meeting

Upon discussion, the committee agreed to meet after the planned February 26 PT3 meeting. Committee co-chairperson Sanchez indicated that we would meet before spring break.

Exploration of Possible Field Day for Families of Special Education Students

Committee co-chairperson Sanchez recommended we wait to discuss this topic until Committee co-chairperson Ryles is present. Committee member Condon indicated that she would like to know the purpose of having a separate field day when students are included in each building's field day.

Committee member Tesija brought up a discussion from the last meeting about trainings provided for teacher assistants. Dr. Frost confirmed that this is being discussed with administrators, but did not yet have data to share at tonight's meeting.

Public Comments

No public comments were made.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by general consent at 7:02 p.m.