

# SPECIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

## OCTOBER 2016

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**PERSONNEL UPDATES** – There were several new hires this year within the Special Services Department. This allowed us to develop some collaborative models of hiring where we gathered stakeholders from various perspectives across the district to assist with the hiring process. In the end we believe to have secured a number of staff from diverse backgrounds

### **New Hires:**

#### Regina James: West End – Self-Contained Upper Elementary MD

Ms. James returns to the district after indirectly serving many of our students the past several years, through her work as the lead teacher at the Inspira Partial program located right here in Woodbury. Prior to that position, she was a one-to-one aide at Walnut Street School from September 2011 through June 2013. Ms. James has a strong background working with students with a broad range of disabilities and is well versed in a team approach to instruction. We are excited for her to merge her ideas and experiences with our current related services team and West End to enhance the already strong Multiply Disabled program that we developed last year.

#### Rebekka Vetter: Junior High – 7<sup>th</sup> Self-Contained LD

Ms. Vetter is joining the Junior High Team after making a life transition and relocating from Virginia. For the past 13 years Ms. Vetter was employed as both an English Teacher and Special Education Instructor working with students aged 13-17. She is well versed in various instructional methodologies and in working with students with diverse learning needs and backgrounds. She is excited to join our self-contained team and to be able to collaborate with our veteran staff of Mr. Dan O’Leary and Ms. Jackie Rosario.

#### Brendan Butler: Walnut – Resource Center K-5

Mr. Butler continues to serve the district as a utility player fulfilling several roles across the Woodbury community. Originally hired as our Health and Physical Education Instructor at the Alternative Evening School Mr. Butler is also very active as a Home Bound Instructor and this year begins as our Walnut Street School Resource Center Teacher. He actually began this role towards the end of the last school year and has already proven a strong ability to build effective relationships with both staff and students. We look forward to Mr. Butler growing in this position this year and becoming a truly integral part of the Walnut team.

#### Ann Brugnolo: Junior High – Learning Consultant – CST Case Manager

Ms. Brugnolo has actually been employed by the district the past several years as a 6<sup>th</sup> grade Literacy Teacher in the Annex. During her time in the district she became passionate about working with our students with disabilities through her inclusion work with Ms. Anne Evans. This led her to pursue a Master’s Degree as a Learning Consultant which she completed with support from the district. Things lined up timing wise for Ms. Brugnolo as the Child Study Team had an unforeseen opening that synced with the completion of her degree. As a result we were able to take advantage of Ms. Brugnolo’s new certification and bring her own board as our 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade CST Case Manager.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENT**

This year the special services department is transitioning our entire data base management system over to a state of the art best in class platform endorsed by the State DOE. The past 15 years we have been using a local company to manage, document and track all of our special education students, services and IEP's, however, that company is no longer in the business of providing that service. This forced our hand to make a transition and after reviewing several products and services the district adopted the IEP Direct Special Education Database management system. Although it is our staff, our community partnerships, our creativity, evidence based interventions, love of our students and strong relationships that move mountains for our children, the team believes this new technology system is going to be a tremendous asset in allowing us to achieve our goals more efficiently. Some highlights of the system include:

- Ease of use and navigation to access, edit and modify student records and information
- Tracking of IEP Goals and Objectives in real time to provide documentation of student progress more consistently throughout the year
- “Live” Web based documents that allow various team members working with a student to share information in a more seamless fashion through one “central documentary repository”
- Built in procedural safe guards and time lines that create alerts to notify team members of pending evaluations deadlines, IEP updates and annual review meetings
- Larger more diverse and comprehensive list of state approved goals and objectives based on discreet tasks at each grade level to meet the ever increasing diverse needs of our special education population

**APPENDIX A: SPECIAL EDUCATION/CASE MANAGERS TEACHING STAFF DISTRICT WIDE**

\* = *New Staff Member*

**Evergreen Avenue School**

- Ms. Lauren Stankiewicz: Self-Contained LD K-1
- Ms. Colleen DiRienzo: Self-Contained LD 2-3
- Ms. Kylie Pringle: Self-Contained LD 4-5
- Ms. Gina Garrison : Resource Center 1-5
- Mrs. Caroline Polsenberg: Resource Center 1-5
- Mrs. Susan Kudless: 3 year Old Self Contained Pre-School
- Ms. Lindsey Schaeffer: Instructional Assistant - 4 year Pre-K Old Inclusion
- Mrs. Shelia Lenoff: Speech and Language Specialist K-5
- Ms. Jamie Jackowski: Speech and Language Specialist Pre-School Disabled

**Walnut Street School**

- \*Brendan Butler: ½ time Pull Out Resource Center and ICS Walnut
- Ms. Jamie Jackowski: Speech and Language Specialist

**West End School**

- Ms. Maria Gassner: Self-Contained MD K-2<sup>nd</sup>
- \*Mrs. Regina James: Self-Contained MD 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>
- Mr. Jake Lessman: Resource Center & ICS Grades 3-5
- Ms. Sherryl Sprock: Resource Center & ICS Grades K-2
- Ms. Amber Weaver: Speech and Language Specialist

**Woodbury Junior-Senior High School**

- Mr. Marc Cannuli: High School In Class Support History
- Andrea DiSalvo: High School In Class Support Science
- Mrs. Sherri Davis: High School Resource Center English
- Mr. Marcus Berg: High School Replacement Math
- Mrs. Lynette Lewis-Davis: 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade In-class Support Program
- Mrs. Terri Stebich: 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Resource Center Math and Literacy
- Mrs. Kristin Corley: 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Resource Center English
- Mrs. Thilana Chandler: 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Multiply Disability Self-Contained
- Ms. Jackie Rosario : 8<sup>th</sup> grade Self-Contained
- \*Ms. Rebekka Vetter: 7<sup>th</sup> grade Self-Contained
- Ms. Jackie Breshock: 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> – Self Contained – Emotional Support
- Mr. Dan O’Leary: 6<sup>th</sup> grade Self-Contained
- Mrs. Tracey Weist: 6<sup>th</sup> grade In Class Support

**District Wide Staff**

- Mrs. Sharon Cardwell: Case Manager – 6<sup>th</sup> grade & Out of District Students
- \*Mrs. Ann Brugnolo: Case Manager – 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grade
- Mrs. Tanya Ripley :Case Manager – 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- Mrs. Stacey Henry :Case Manager – Evergreen Avenue & Walnut Street
- Ms. Crystal Ramirez :Case Manager – Evergreen Avenue & High School
- Ms. Tricia Bevelheimer – Physical Therapist
- Ms. Stacey Augustine: Case Manager - West End
- Ms. Jen Stell: Occupational Therapist