

UPPER PERKIOMEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Education Center 2229 E. Buck Road Pennsburg, PA 18073

Special Education & Pupil Services Committee

April 10, 2018 – 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Mrs. Judy Maginnis, Mr. George Reigle, Mrs. Melanie Cunningham, Mr. James Glackin

The meeting commenced at 6:30 pm

1. The committee began by welcoming the public. The February 13, 2018 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.
2. Completed mission and vision statements were reviewed and committee members expressed their gratitude for attendance and assistance with the document at a previous meeting. The committee unanimously approved the finalized committee mission and vision statement. Mission and vision are as follows:

Mission

- Improve the district Special Education and Pupil Services programs by:
 - o Encouraging open and honest communication across all levels in the district
 - o Encouraging a climate of collaboration among all stakeholders
 - o Understanding and adhering to state and federal mandates
 - o Supporting increased parent training and school district staff professional development
- Provide meaningful recommendations to the school board for changes that enable improvement.

Vision

- Enable all students, regardless of barriers or differing abilities, to achieve their full academic potential and prepare them for a successful transition into the community, a career, or college.

Team Member Roles and Responsibilities

- School Board Directors
 - o Ensure policies empower school administrators and personnel to improve the district's special programs to better help the students succeed
 - o Build and enhance a culture of inclusion and empowerment for all students
 - o Encourage open and honest communication of current strengths, weaknesses and needs of the district
 - o Provide oversight and accountability to ensure adherence to the committee mission and progress towards the committee vision

- Director of Special Education and Pupil Services
 - o Provides plans to develop and implement data driven programs that follow currently accepted best practices and meets or exceed state and federal requirements
 - o Assess and communicate current state of district programs
 - o Communicate district needs and recommend actions for improvement

Partners and other Stakeholders

- School Administrators
 - o Build and enhance a culture of inclusion
 - o Help to facilitate communication with parents, students, and the board
 - o Ensure that all staff are properly trained to understand and execute educational programs
- Educational Staff
 - o Work with administration on development and implementation of evidence-based best practice programs
 - o Facilitate communication with parents, administration, and the board
 - o Proactively work with administrators to identify and communicate gaps in execution of district programs in order to help strengthen the overall district
- Parents, Students, and Community members
 - o Provide input and feedback on the practical impact of district programs on students
 - o Actively participate and listen with an open mind
 - o Provide feedback on results of special education and all educational programming

3. The Director of Pupil Services and Special Education, Mr. George Reigle, began a discussion at the request of the committee at a previous meeting of disabilities and acronyms related to special education. A guide and further detailed information was distributed to the committee. Additionally, qualification guidelines and trends were discussed for each disability category.
4. Mr. Reigle ask for any additional input as it relates to the special education comprehensive plan. The plan was posted for public review for more than the required 28 days as well as presented at a previous board workshop meeting. It was noted that the plan will be discussed at a future committee meeting. The plan would go to a full board vote at the April 12, 2018 board meeting. Upon approval, the district would submit the plan to the state for final review before it is approved.
5. The committee reviewed ESSA and core components of the plan including Future Ready, Act 339, and MTSS (formally RTI). A brief discussion regarding Future Ready occurred and comments from committee members on the Curriculum and Instruction Committee were made. It was noted that at a future Curriculum & Instruction meeting, data would be discussed as it related to academic programming and district courses. A board presentation was scheduled to occur at the May board workshop meeting on the topics of Act 339 and Future Ready. Additionally, the draft district comprehensive plan will be reviewed and posted for public review.

6. Public comments were made regarding the continuation and expansion of special education services and supports, gifted services and offerings within the district, MTSS and crisis procedures, enhanced ELA, district data, and communication. Concerns were raised surrounding crisis procedures, special education identification, resources within the district, and MTSS procedures.

The next committee meeting will be held on May 9th at 6:30pm.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 pm.