

UPPER PERKIOMEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Education Center

2229 E. Buck Road Pennsburg, PA 18073

**Pupil Services/Special Education Committee Meeting**

April 26, 2021

Ex-Officio: Mrs. Melanie Cunningham, President CHAIR: Mrs. Judy Maginnis, Pupil Services/Special Education

MEMBERS Pupil Services/Special Education: Kerry Drake, Mike Elliott

Superintendent – Dr. Allyn J. Roche

Assistant

Superintendent – Dr. Andrea Farina

Assistant Director of Special Education–Carol Giblin

Special Education Supervisor – Amy Coyle

Behavior Specialist-Dr. Melissa Teller

Approval of March 22, 2021 minutes.

**UPSD Updates: Behavior, QBS and RBT Supports:** The district has supports in place for behavior support and they include our UPSD Behavior Specialist, Dr. Teller, who provides district wide support and is our QBS trainer), a BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst), Matt Hook, who we contract with through the MCIU. He supervises the RBTs and consults with Dr. Teller to support students. Consultants from Pattan who are a part of the Autism Initiative and work with our 6 programs (5 AS and MDS) providing Applied Behavior Analysis support consultations both on-site and virtually. A PBS Facilitator, who we contract with through the MCIU, who provides PD on Functional Behavior Assessments and Positive Behavior Support Plans.

**Professional Development 2020-2021:** The MCIU provided 3 PD training days for K-12 special education teachers, counselors and RBTs about the systems of support for behavior interventions, the development of Functional Behavioral Assessments (FBA) and Positive Behavioral Support Plans (PBSP). At the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Center, Dr. Teller was able to provide PD for de-escalation strategies and supporting students with behavior to all staff. Pattan has been providing strategies for supporting students with behaviors and communication needs to our AS teachers in K-8, our MDS teacher and to Dr. Teller. They also consult with the staff on a monthly basis. We plan to continue to utilize the services of Pattan next school year as well.

**QBS Safety Care:** QBS is designed to offer strategies that allow staff to safely provide support to individuals exhibiting disruptive or dangerous behaviors. The Safety Care Principles are: respect and dignity, use of least restrictive interventions that are safe and effective, applicability to many setting and environments and evidenced-based procedures. Once a year, Dr. Teller is recertified and staff holding a QBS certificate are recertified. Safety Care goals are to:

- create a positive, supportive, and enriched physical and social environment by minimizing stressors
- teach functional alternatives to challenging behavior by giving replacement behavior strategies
- prevent behavior crises whenever possible
- manage behavior crises safely and therapeutically
- minimize the intensity and duration of behavior crises
- decrease the future likelihood of behavior crises.

Training topics of QBS Safety Care include:

- conditions related to challenging behaviors and other important factors related to challenging behaviors including disability, student history (trauma, hunger)
- the A-B-C model of behavior (Antecedent (what is causing the behavior) Behavior and Consequence (what are they getting out of the behavior-are they escaping a task, getting attention))
- reinforcement (what consequence follows the behavior)
- how challenging behavior can be learned and maintained through reinforcement
- the behavioral trap (learning not to reinforce behaviors that we don't want to)
- staff behavior (power struggles, body language, verbal behavior)
- de-escalation: help, prompt, wait, (help-teach student to ask for assistance, prompt them to ask for what they want, wait-wait for the student to de-escalate)
- physical management (only used in an extreme case when if we don't intervene the student may be unsafe or others may be unsafe. If used, staff debrief afterward to discuss what worked, what didn't).

There are currently 31 QBS certified staff: Marlborough has 2 Special Education teachers, 1 RBT, 1 specialist and 1 counselor. Hereford has 2 AS teachers, 1 RBT, 1 Learning Support teacher, 1 counselor and 1 psychologist. The 4-5 Center has 1 AS teacher, 2 Learning Support teachers, 1 counselor, 1 RBT and 1 AS paraprofessional. The MS has 3 special education teachers (2 AS, 1 ES), 1 Student Assistance Counselor and 1 general education teacher. The HS has 2 special education teachers (AS and LSS), 1 psychologist, 1 RBT, 3 counselors and 1 paraprofessional.

**Registered Behavior Technician (RBT):** an RBT is a paraprofessional certified in behavior analysis and assists and services students. The RBT supervisor, Matt Hook, is required to provide direct supervision for a minimum of 5% of hours monthly (which is approximately 6 hours for each RBT) and supervises the RBTs on behavior services to students. To maintain certification requirements the RBT must have on-going monthly supervision, adhere to the RBT Ethics Code, complete an RBT Competency Assessment annually and renew the application annually. The daily responsibilities for an RBT include collecting data on student behavior. Implement naturalistic teaching procedures, which are incidental and not planned. Utilize token systems and being a part of the building crisis team. We have 6 certified RBTs in district with 1 in training. Marlborough has 1, Hereford has 2, the 4-5 Center has 1, and the HS has 2.

**Looking forward to next school year:** Our Behavior Specialist will continue to provide individual and small group professional development. We will submit an application to Pattan for continued supports for our AS and MDS programs. We will continue with the MCIU Project Consultant for support and collaboration and FBA/PBSP development by special education teachers and guidance counselors. Special education building level group and one to one monthly meetings will continue with Dr. Teller participating in the elementary level meetings and as needed.

**Next Steps: QBS and RBT services:** We will continue to provide initial QBS certifications and are looking to have at least one building administrator certified. We are looking to add QBS certification for additional staff. This training will be Sections I to IV, which is training on the de-escalation interventions and strategies, which would assist with supporting the students and minimize the need to call the crisis team.

The RBT Supports and Services will continue to be reviewed and monitored annually to determine recommendations/changes for the upcoming school year. Assignments will be based on data and needs of students and programs.

**2021 PA Climate Survey reminders:** The results will be shared in September. The data from the survey is used to write grants and to program with the county with support services. The student survey will be administered the week of May 17<sup>th</sup> and the parent survey will be administered the week of May 10<sup>th</sup>. Staff survey was completed in March, but staff who didn't complete it have until the student survey is completed.

The final Parent training for this school year is May 6<sup>th</sup> and is about the Autism Initiative and Intensive Teaching.

Meeting adjourned.

