

SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING 1/12/10

Special Education Committee meeting took place in the main board room at District Office on 1/12/10 at 7:40pm. Many topics were discussed as follows:

- A request was made for next winter to continue sports program through the winter season.
- The possibility of a bowling group or a swimming session available to our special needs children during the winter break was discussed.
- Discussion about the successes of the social group continued this month highlighting how the group has helped the children socialize with greater acceptance.
- A special needs Horseback Riding Program was discussed with thoughts of offering to interested family's a discounted rate for a 6 week program. Possibility of the SEPFC funding part of the program to offset the cost to parents. The legalities and insurance requirements would have to be researched before the program could be set in place.
- April 9, 2010 is the Changing Times fundraiser for the SEPFC. Flyers will be distributed throughout schools in the near future.
- Zingo fundraiser will be held on 2/12/10 at the JFK School as a fun family night out sponsored by the SEPFC.
- Discussion took place of possibly implementing an experimental "canoeing program" for all summer school children in our special needs classes. District Administrator will research staff needed, certified swim instructors, requirements of a roped off area, and life vests as key elements to the success of this experimental program. A committee member has someone who will supply the swim area free of charge. Again, the legalities & insurance requirements would have to be researched before the program could be set in place.

- Concerns were shared about the Special Education budget for the coming year. Concerns were also shared about the importance of maintaining low special education student enrollment in both the inclusion and SPR classes at the secondary levels.
- Complaints were made about the budget process in general – line item by line item – need better clarification on what is being discussed so that the general public can follow along.
- Concerns were discussed about thoughts of “0” budget ideas. Public is aware that there can not be a continuation of a “0” budget again this year. Reassurance was given that the budget process will be diligent task undertaken by the BOE and District Administration.
- 2/23/10 Open BOE meeting at May Moore – Eastern Suffolk BOCES State Regional Facilitator will present our school district with the grant award, banner, and certificates to staff.
- Positives in the District: classroom to classroom programs are very successful. Staff is happy and embracing professional development.
- Discussion was made regarding future recognition of staff at BOE meetings highlighting 2-3 teachers at a time for their outstanding work and progress.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm for BOE work session.

Chairpersons:

Donna Marie Elliott

Keith Rooney