

West New York Public Schools
Parent Advisory Committee for Special Education
(WNY PAC)
November 17, 2011

Meeting called to order by Beverly Lazzara, Director of Special Services
Time and Location: 9:30am ~ West New York Public School # 4

Present:

Beverly Lazzara - Director, Special Services
Joanne Winters – Asst. to Director, Special Services
Nancy Groth – Parent – Memorial High School
Carmita Villa – Parent – Public School 1
Aida Vele – Parent – Public School 2
Erika Flores – Parent – Public School 1
Yolanda Christero – Public School 1

Proceedings:

- First Meeting of WNY PAC for the 2011-2012 school year.
- Getting children and parents involved.
- Monthly things going on for the Special Needs children
- Special chairs for the emergency personnel to remove people from upper floors
- Reading programs
- Broadway
- Liberty Science Center
- New therapy service

New Ideas/ New Business:

- More people are needed to attend the WNY PAC meetings. To establish this, a letter will be going out to the parents of Special Needs children. They are welcome to attend this meeting and any other event for the children. Reaching out to other parents of Special Education children to attend meetings.
- December 5th – 9th: National Inclusion Week. There will be activities going on during this week.
- Special Needs Children will decorate Town Hall's Christmas tree.
- Liberty Science Center: In December, the special needs children from Memorial will be attending. In the spring, they will have a day for the elementary schools. **Need to contact Marianne Cinque about when the Special Needs Day is at LSC**
- January 19, 2012: A speaker will be coming to the Middle School for a night meeting. The subject of this meeting is **Depression and ADHD**
- Throughout the school year, there will be small workshops for the parents about Autism, different topics about special education, and Bullying.
- April is Autism Month. April 9th – 13th is National Autism Week. They will have a fundraiser for the Teachers and Staff of WNY to wear blue jeans on Friday.
- Special Olympics: Trying to get equipment for the classrooms during inclement weather. This will be for the Pre-K to 7 ½ years old.
- In May, we will try to involve the children in a walk for Special Olympics

- Every public school will be getting special “evacuation chairs” These chairs make it easier to go down stairs, when someone is not able to. The district is just waiting for the fire department to find a central location for these chairs. The district is currently waiting for chairs for the Early Childhood Center.
- We talked about self-contained Reading Program for Pre-K to 2nd grade. This will teach sight, sound, touch, etc.
- **Ms. Giacumbo will find info about Autism Day on Broadway.**
- Memorial will be getting an Autism class next year.
- In the Autism classes the teachers are now equipped with IPADs.
- Summer Recreation at Number 2 School from 1pm-3pm for Special Needs children. This will teach character building.
- **Mr. Sanchez at the Board of Ed will get info about grants for the special needs students**
- ***Therapy:*** They will be trying the 3 to 1 model. This means, the children will have 3 weeks of therapy and one week for the parents, teacher, & therapist consultations. This will teach reinforcing how to work with the child at home.
- (Parents want to have a meeting about this program)
- (Parents also would like a speaker form the Division of Disability Services)

* www.UMDNJ.edu “**Mom 2 Mom**” is a 24-hour helpline, launched three months ago, that’s been established by University Behavioral Healthcare, a division of UMDNJ. It is designed specifically for mothers of children with special needs. The women, the peer counselors, who answer the phones have their own special needs children.

Meeting adjourned: 10:30am

Next meeting: December 8, 2011 at the AMVETS Building 5602 Blvd East at 9:30am

Minutes submitted by: Nancy Groth

