

## **#4 Special Services Report-April 2017**

### **PSEA Special Education Conference (March 3&4)**

I attended the conference with Dave Lombardi, Eileen Rearden and my assistant Luz Gonzalez. It was very informative as always. We had information presented to us from PSEA, PDE and several universities. We learned about current legal issues, how to work with advocates, collaborating with regular education teachers, and federal government updates. Pat Hozella from PDE Bureau of Special Education shared information about their hopes and dreams for the future. I will highlight some of the information in my next report.

I also regret to inform you that Bernie Miller will be retiring in the Fall. Yes, I was in tears. He has been a huge asset to helping the REA and will be missed.

### **Special Education:**

I have requested to meet with Cheri Woyurka to discuss concerns so we do not have to take it to SAC and resolve things in a timely manner. She has said she will not meet with me and to take all concerns to SAC. This is the first director/ acting director that has not tried to collaborate with the REA since I am in this position.

### **Audit**

The audit was posted on the RSD website on January 4. The REA Special Education Committee met with Jen Murray on March 29 to discuss the audit. She has said that the audit that has been on the website and presented to the public was from the CCIU. RSD Admin. has currently tweaked it and have had a closed executive session with the school board to present it as an action plan. It was not shared with us at this time. They will be planning over the summer to implement a plan for 2017-18 and presenting it to the Principals and Assistant Principals. REA was not asked to be a part of the planning.

### **Permission to Reevaluate/Evaluate (PTREs) being issued**

I have been told by different buildings that PTREs are being issued several different ways. There is a different point person at each building. The point person is either an administrator or someone from our bargaining unit.

It is becoming a problem due to timelines not being met when they are issued and the team members doing the testing have no idea they were issued. Tracking how many are being issued is also a concern. The people who need to be contacted in order to stay in compliance are not being contacted as well. This will cause the paperwork to be out of compliance. **Let me know if this occurs.** Jen Murray said this has been directed by Cheri Woyurka and it was to “stop the bleeding”.

**Procedures in writing-** I have been asking for this for at last 4 years. It was #1 on the audit. Hopefully someone starts creating them soon. If you can provide a list of what you would like in writing please send it to me.

**Caseloads:** I am filing a grievance regarding caseloads being over. If you hear that a student has been denied a placement due to the grievance, let me know ASAP. This was discussed at SAC and they said it isn't happening. I couldn't give them student names but I did give them 3 buildings that have brought it to my attention: 16<sup>th</sup> & Haak, Northwest El, and Tyson-Schoener.

**PASA: Reading & Math:**

Great job to all of our students! Thank you for working so hard to get them completed before the April 3<sup>rd</sup> deadline.

**Science:** Test Administrator Training: should be completed Testing Window: April 10- May 5,

You can begin downloading the test on April 8th

\*\*\*\*\*PSSA Math & Science overlap with PASA Science- plan accordingly and collaborate to get your testing completed

**PSSA:** English Language Arts- Testing Window: April 3-7 (grades 3-8)

Math- Testing Window: April 24-27 (grades 3-8)

Science- Testing Window: May 1-5 (grades 4 & 8)

**Keystones:** Algebra 1, Biology, Literature

**ESL/ELA:**

**The ESL program was audited in 2015 and an action plan has been put in place.**

We have 3 Title III Professional Development Facilitators:

Esperanza "Macky" Wickert, Leo Hanley and Sarah Steiner

**Progress Monitoring (IEP-plus):**

Please enter data for each goal or objective in IEP plus. Do not just click one thing. You should be adding comments to each objective to provide documentation of progress achieved by the student.

**WIDA ACCESS for ELLs**

Great job to all who tested and were tested! WIDA is complete.

**Ellevation:** a new program for teachers to document ESL progress. If you get an email asking you to fill out progress reports, please collaborate with your ESL teachers in order to complete it. There has not been any training other than teacher guided information.

Progress Monitoring is due by April 12<sup>th</sup>.

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