

March 4th, 2020 – Start of Meeting: 6:35pm

Overview of the purpose of a SEAC – Melina

Shared handout the purpose of SEAC and webinar recap – see additional handout (Highlights from the CDE)

Information on how to start and maintain a SEAC

General information – every state is mandated to have a state SEAC, but district is flexible/optional

SEAC is an advisory group that collaborates that focuses on solutions

WHY have a SEAC? – works collaboratively with all stakeholders to meet the needs of all learners

The mission and vision were written several years ago.

At our next parent meeting in April we will discuss updated bylaws – parent board will continue the work in April, and the bylaws will be presented in May to the board.

The Power of Partnership – a resource for local special education advisory committee in Colorado ; handout was given by Nancy, Melina shared with the board

Page 2 – focus on this page to understand what our role and discuss/agree with what our role is; role is to advise based on data and good judgement

How the Local SEAC functions – the key thing to focus on is to create a collaborative partnership

Nancy shared information from the Power of Partnership – advocacy is the focus, not advising ; DCSEAC has served our community through recognition activities, presentations, support groups

- **Recap of presentations – Scott**
 - DCSEAC will not be organizing HOY or college presentations moving forward

SSN College Night 23 people – went smoothly – great speakers and great questions

Mild/Mod Night College Night 88 people -great questions, great speakers, common topic-question Do IEP/504 transition to college, the crowd was surprised and disappointed, however, many of the metro area colleges do provide support and accommodations

Scott has the slides from both presentations from both nights that he can share to upload on the website.

Is there a way to share what colleges offer and guide students better than others?

The guidance counselor is very savvy at knowing which colleges have strong programs to support our students who need some additional support. There is not a “list” available, however, high schools are aware of what colleges can provide more resources.

Students are encouraged to support IEP/504 with admissions. – Scott shared this information.

Students and families are encouraged to look at all schools to see what resources are available in the form of resource/disability center.

Discussion on testimonies from families, teachers, etc to share information about specific colleges for parents and students.

Scott will share the contact information for additional resources at colleges for future presentations. Scott shared that parents really just wanted facts. It was nice to have the other presenters though.

DCSD – there currently is no college information

- **Support Groups – Melina for Tricia, Melina/Robin, Aleia**
 - Lean on Me: February meeting was not held; Too many illnesses and disruptions. Next Meeting: Tuesday March 24th, Lone Tree Library, 6:30-8:00.
 - SSN: Tuesday, March 10th, LT Library, Event Hall, 10-11:30am
 - Stronger Together: Thursday, March 12th LT Library, Studio meeting room, 6:30-8:00

Support groups for February were low due to sickness and snow/delayed start days.

- **Treasurer Update – Jeni 2,618.65 no new news**
- **Unified Update – John**
 - Tab on DCSEAC website – coming soon

We will have a new tab on the SEAC website. There will be more stories shared about the awesome work going on in Unified activities.

Nancy shared that there will be a speaker from Special Olympics to discuss unified sports at the Building Compassionate Learners conference on March 28

Polar Plunge will continue through the next couple of weeks, through mid-March.

- **Email Update – Melina for Tricia**
 - Getting emails to moderate comments left on our blog, and that people are following our blog. May have been something set up by a previous parent board member. Marci looking into changing this.
 - Blast email sent with DCSEAC as sender for Shining Star nominations?

-moving forward, can we switch it to Douglas County Special Education Advisory Committee

- **Shining Star – Kerri**

This program has been around for several years. Last year there were just over 100 nominations, this year there are 288!

Most elementary schools were nominated;

71 schools represented – so many positions were represented from classroom teachers, EAs, case managers, bus drivers, lunch staff, etc.

School Nominations

43 school nominations – 25 were elementary schools – 5 charter schools

3 high schools

1 middle school

Janice offered additional prize money to support the preschool nominations if we wanted it as a support category in the future.

Discussion of charter schools and how they serve our students with special needs. Charter schools are held to the same responsibility with regards to IEPs. Currently, our district's charter schools do not have center based programs, however there are resources for our students at all of our Douglas County Schools, including charter and neighborhood schools. SSN programs are clustered to ensure a full program and number of students.

Charter schools are also unequally distributed currently that make things more challenging.

The board collectively decided to donate \$250 for an additional basket to be given to a Charter School.

***Winners were drawn for Shining Star – to be announced**

Kerri will email Nancy the complete list of all Shining Star nominations to post on the DCSD website.

Discussion about selecting more winners in the future, if we can get more donations from the community.

Kerri will send certificates and Nancy will send them to the schools. Kerri will notify principals and baskets will be delivered to schools around the first week of April.

- **District Updates**

A season of transitions; there are lots of meetings to prepare for school transitions, gearing up for state testing, graduation, etc.

- **Subcommittee Group work**

- Autism
- Communication
- Principals

Discussed adding a district employee to each group to ensure that we have direction and input.

May is the last meeting of the school year – parents will work on the google docs during the April parent meeting and in May we will have a direction moving forward to address the challenges that were presented in the focus groups.

We would love district input before the April meeting. Nancy said that a district person should be able to share feedback.

- **Next Meetings: Parent Board Meeting, Friday April 3rd, Lone Tree Library, 12:15-1:45.**

Parent/District Meeting, Wednesday May 6th, Lone Tree Elem, 6:30-8:00.

