

Special Education PTA
10/12/17 Meeting Minutes

Community Presentation:

Todd LaValley from Special Olympics presented to the group. S.O. is a school-based program with athletic fees paid to the district, just like other sports. There is a Booster Club. There are currently about 70 athletes from elementary school through high school and there is room for many more. Social skills are integrated: kids are teammates, they require appropriate interaction between the kids, teach sportsmanship, etc. Overnight trips for state tournaments stretch the kids as they have to pack a bag and be responsible for it, stay in the dorms, eat in cafeterias, watch other kid's events, etc. He encourages any and all families to consider signing up – kids can join at any time.

Officer Elections:

The following people volunteered and ran unopposed for the following positions:

Kathryn Roberts – President
Beth Ivankovic – Vice President
Heather Cole – Treasurer
Karen Peikert – Secretary
Jennifer Johnson – Committee Chair

The offices are on an interim basis, and per the By Laws, regular annual elections will take place in the spring.

Lauri Malnory – District Updates and Announcements:

SEPTA is now on the district website and meeting dates, agendas and minutes will be posted.

All buildings are being asked to link to SEPTA on their web site

She handed out flyers and promoted the Keys To Success Conference being held in Elk Mound on Nov 4. It is a regional conference with strong speakers/content. Emails with announcements will go out to all families who have correct emails entered into Skyward.

Presentation: National Alliance on Mental Health – Barb Habben

NAMI started in WI and there are now over 1000 affiliates

Their mission is to improve the quality of life of those with mental illness and to promote recovery

They have a program called Family to Family which is a 12-week curriculum to learn better ways to communicate and deal with family members who have mental illness.

There is also a Basics class – a 6-week program taught by individuals who have lived with a child with mental illness.

Support group and general meetings are their main focus.

They organize crisis intervention trainings for police officers.

QPR – Question/Persuade/Respond is an emergency response technique

- It is for everyone, offered in formats for either adolescents or adults
- North and Memorial offered it in their health classes for 9th grade
- Trainings are about 1 ½ hours
- Contact the health department if there is anyone interested in taking the course

They received a grant to focus on suicide prevention with a goal of a 15% reduction of kids who are at risk. The focus is education and awareness.

They are looking at ways and strategies to increase youth resilience.

ECASD Presentation: Kayang Xiong, Director of Student Services and Jodi Hubbard, PBIS Supports:

There are about 2200 students in the ECASD who have a diagnosed mental illness
There are many barriers to families receiving mental health services, so the district facilitates referrals for school-based services

Marriage and Family Health Services, Children's Hospital of WI, Mosaic and Prevea Health all are partnering in the school based programs.

They do third party billing through insurance

Last year the Masonic Angels helped with some copays and they are also considering asking to partner with United Way for assistance.

There is still a need for more providers.

Jodi discussed WI's framework for Equitable Multilevel Services

Tier Three services are the most intense with wrap around services, a coordinated services team, comprehensive community services.etc.

Tier Two services are where school-based mental health services fit in.

- The Tier Two team identifies the need for services based on data that is gathered regarding the student and then discusses the idea of a referral with families. Families are able to see this data.
- Students who are already receiving community-based counseling are not eligible because it is insurance based.
- The school makes the referral and the therapist meets with the family/guardian for an intake appointment. There are then weekly meetings for about 8 weeks if the insurance pays for it.
- High schools also have an option to be part of group therapy programs.