

## Special Education Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: January 30, 2020

The meeting was opened at 4:05pm by Janise Hardy, Council Chairperson. Board members in attendance were:

- Janise Hardy, Chairperson
- Jessica Touchet, Special Education Teacher
- Penny Arcement, Parent
- Amanda Comeaux, Parent
- Tanessa Green, Parent

Sara Harrington was marked as absent. Also in attendance was Regina Hebert, Coordinating Supervisor of Special Education and Barbara Castro, secretary.

Board meetings are not regulated by the Open Meetings Law.

Mrs. Hardy discussed the Vision as well as the Key Duties of the SEAC. She requested that members review the handbook that was distributed and make special note of the 3<sup>rd</sup> written page which discusses the vacancy policy. This policy is in place to ensure that attendance is a key factor to serving on the board. The second procedure that was highlighted was the consecutive meetings missed policy. Both were stressed so that the understanding of attendance was noted. Members were asked to please review the entire handbook and make notes to discuss questions or concerns, these would be put on a future meeting agenda.

Confidentiality and the consensus that the board should act as one was also a main topic discussed with the board.

The Board Member Job Description as well as the Ethics of the Board was read by Mrs. Hardy and copies were also given to board members for their records and to review. Members were also given a copy of the overview of the Special Education Department.

Mrs. Regina Hebert, Coordinating Supervisor of the Special Education Department, was introduced. She discussed the overview of the department as well as reviewed all of the different ways the department supports the district (including SPED/504, Gifted & Talented, Transportation, Threat Assessments, Special Olympics, and Very Special Arts). She noted that Vermilion has inclusion where some parishes do not and that a main focus of the department is teaching instructors strategies to support student success. She stressed that all SPED teachers need to be advocates for our children and wants input on any areas that are felt to have a need for improvement.

The topic of Concerns/Goals was then opened for all to discuss. Community awareness, waiver program, creating attainable goals, teachers and student rights, self-advocacy/transitioning, and technology were

all discussed at length. The board has decided that the focus for this year will be both Community Outreach and Transitioning/Self Advocacy.

The dates of the next two SEAC meetings will be:

- Thursday, March 12, 2020 @ 4pm
- Thursday, May 7, 2020 @ 4pm

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm by Mrs. Janise Hardy.