

December 14th, 2023 Parent Partnership Minutes

AGENDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Introductions● High School students update.● Action Items<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ a. Polling students for interest in Unified Sports○ b. Each member will provide input on the goal and vision for Unified Sports.○ c. Para support for students to participate in after school sports.○ d. Participation in “no cut” teams● Hot Topics facing special education in the district.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ a. Admin scheduling IEP meetings with parents, understanding the law around this process.○ b. Taking a look at discipline, out of school suspensions and in school suspensions, discussion about the law regarding discipline of students with disabilities.
NOTES/DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Introductions● Group discusses highschool student representatives<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Want to have one practice in getting their attendance. We have students interested in being recurring reps.○ Social worker has been organizing - do we tap into building admin to make sure they know to support these students in their attendance?● Unified Sports<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Maureen gives brief update about what we are doing○ Joanne Belanger, student council, mentioned that they will focus on Special Olympics.

- Kaily mentions that Special Olympics puts out calendars with daily activities geared towards cultural shift of respecting and including students with disabilities
- Maureen reflects on the shift of the groups work - focus on shifting the culture
- As a group we discussed this month coming back to the table, what is our vision for unified sports.
- Kaily describes the many different directions the group has discussed going with Unified Sports and making sure we have a clear vision.
 - Chris shares his experiences as a parent with his son playing soccer this year - Chris suggests that we do focus on skills-sessions with a clear support system and go from there and see who wants to play and who doesn't.
 - Chris also notes the importance of paraprofessionals/ support being there.
 - Rachel clarifies if this connects to an IEP - it does. If it is a school function event the IEP needs do follow them. Larry gives the example of paras for after school hours.
 - Jenn Jordan shares that the "no cut" thing is

not true and that there are cuts.

- Kaily adds that in the districts vision for sports there is no wording that its “no cut”.
- Erin adds that just like their IEPs - you make a plan and its rocky and bumpy and not always a great start.
- Rachel adds if we need to start to make sure we have a discussion about sports for students - Larry and team note that it is in the IEP. We discuss that there a focus on education - we can work to make sure there is a discussion around sports and support. Tie it in to para support - functional needs sections and include in modifications.
- Larry shares that his son is playing on the JV 2 basketball team but he plays 2 minutes a game. He works extremely hard at practices. He has asked him if he wants to play unified and play more during a game or if he wants to stay on JV 2 team. He says he wants to be with his friends - as a father he

would love to see home getting more play, but his son wants to be there with his friends.

- Option to practice with team even though they can not play.
- Erin shares that what Matthew is speaking to is exactly what we are talking about with our vision and culture - "I belong". True inclusion.
- Chris wonders if we suggest that middle school focus on skill-building (attend practice with support system) and as they move to highschool they are part of the regular team if they make the team.
- Erin adds that she felt like "this isnt about us" when she saw the emails go out. Erin would like to challenge that this does include the kids without compromising goal of winning. Erin adds that not only would Kearsarge be known as the winning team but one with an amazing ambassador - that is part of our culture.

- Mutually agreed upon meeting times - Larry has personally talked with elementary secretaries about scheduling and there is an agenda item to discuss it at our next quarterly

	<p>admin meeting. Larry reiterates that there needs to be better communicating with parents. (meeting is 12/20)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jen says that it is still not happening, there is no clarification in the email. ○ Jen says that the schools have picked certain days ○ Kaily shares that just this morning she received an email that a building was frustrated with an OT for changing her schedule to attend a meeting outside of a scheduled meeting time. ○ Team reiterates that (1) giving option that these times are when the entire team is available (2) saying that if that doesn't work we can look at other days but cant guarantee whole team and (3) making sure we are clear about who is not able to attend. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Brief review of manifestation discussion.
ACTION ITEMS	

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS	<p>-Conceptualize vision for athletics MS- HS and connect reps with Charles/Scott to make sure parent partnership voice is represented. (Rachel, Erin, Chris).</p> <p>-Tap into local sports organizations for elementary students.</p> <p>-Address the IEP support for athletics through Associate Directors (not always a person).</p>
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NEXT MEETING DATE	Next meeting 1/11/24 8:30-9:30 SAU Building and remote option