

KRSD Parent Partnership Meeting
April 20, 2023 8:30-9:30

1. Group Project topic Disability Awareness

- *How did the Middle School demonstration go?
- *Discussion to expand into other classroom/teachers
- *Use the Disability Awareness presentation as part of Social and Emotional curriculum
- *Feedback from school principals on when and how to do this project?

Rachel Carney reported that she has been working with the 8-1 cluster doing the disability awareness handout from PIC. She stated they have been doing one lesson a week, it is started in the Language Arts room, as the trial, and then the rest of the teacher do it the next day.

Rachel Carney is going to meet with the School Counselor as they create the curriculum for next years base group activities, to see if the disability awareness activities can be added to 6-8 grades at that time. The question came up could this be added at Elementary School as well, Rachel stated, if they are doing it at KRMS and Elementary school it may take away from it being at middle school. Team talked about maybe Elem school could introduce disability by reading board books, or having conversations. Larry will talk with School Counselor at the Elementary Level as they are working on their curriculum to see if that is part of the curriculum and if not, could this topic be added?

Discussion about having KRSD PP representation at the Open House in each school with a table

to visit and take part in some of the simulation activities, have books available to loan out, a box for parents to put their contact information in if they would like more info on the Partnership, and the flyer!

We will find out dates for Open Houses in the Elementary Schools and the Partnership will discuss volunteers to attend the Open Houses in the fall.

2. Unified Sports update

- *Kaily update on other school districts that have unified sports teams and how they got started
- *Need to get information on interest from Middle/High School families and students on
- *interest in participating in unified sports program, kids with and without disabilities

Kaily was not in attendance at the meeting, this topic was skipped at this time.

3. Hot Topics facing special education in the district.

- *How do we provide resources to parents so that they do not feel they have to hire

an educational advocate to help them navigate the special education process?

School staff welcomes advocates and understands why parents consider this support. The hope is that parents do not need to have to spend money on this resource but can feel supported to participate in meetings successfully on their own behalf and their students. Discussion about how to provide the resources for parents to be confident to actively engage and advocate, PIC as a resource for questions and to find information on the web site, free training available. PIC information on forms parents sign. <https://picnh.org/>

Parents raised awareness of IEP meetings starting with parents on the bench outside waiting for the meeting to begin while school staff are all seated in the meeting room. The discussion focused on how this is uncomfortable and intimidating for families entering the meeting. Staff appreciated this being brought to their attention and Larry will make staff aware of this practice to help families feel more welcome at the start of IEP meetings.

4. Jeff McGuire share information about his community group and learn about KRSD PP

Larry had a email exchange with Jeff McGuire. He has nothing to do with KCN(Kearsarge Community Network) he work more with KNP (Kearsarge Neighborhood Partners). Jeff mentioned his work is around supporting families when needs such as splitting and stacking firewood, or transporting or helping for transportation to appointments. Jeff mentioned that Carol Conforti Adams may be a good person to talk to as she spearheads the group KCN.

Larry will follow up with Carol and report out at next meeting

Next meeting 5/25/23 @8:30 SAU Building