

# ***Burrillville Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes***

**Date:** August 16, 2016

**Location:** Steere Farm Elementary School

**Meeting Start Time:** 6:00pm

**Attendees:**

Chair, Lisa Nault,

Vice Chair, Gloria Bussell

Special Education Director, Candace Andrade

School Physical Therapist, Lynne Cianco, L

Community Members, Leigha Joyle, Andrea Hall, Tom Tatro, Doug Fleurant.

**Absent:** None

**Excused:** None

**Introduction from Special Education Director-**

The Burrillville Special Education Advisory Committee would like to welcome the new Special Education Director, Candace Andrade. Candace worked in the School Districts of Newport and East Providence.

She discussed her experiences with Special Ed Advisory Committees. One event that she mentioned was an awards night. School faculty would be the ones to nominate staff, students, or members of the community for an award which focuses on Special Education. For example: There would be an awards night at one of the District's schools and we would have the Principal and members of the SPED Advisory Committee available to present an award to the Unified Basketball Team for a awesome season. This is definitely something we would love to see in our school district. She also gave us some great topics for upcoming meetings:

**October 18th** -

Crisis and Prevention for Parents

This brief version of CPI will help parents and caregivers de-escalate behavior, set limits and safely handle physical outbursts. Parents and caregivers of children who have difficulty with processing, developmental delays, and behavioral struggles will benefit from this brief course.

**January 17th** -

Northern RI Collaborative will hold a presentation about Transition

**March 21st**-

Northern RI Collaborative- College Panel Event

**May 16th**-

TBA

## **Open House**

We discussed the Elementary School Open house dates and who would be able to attend to pass out flyers for the Special Ed Advisory Committee. Steere Farm and Callahan open houses are scheduled for September 8th, 5:00-8:00pm. Leigh and Lisa will be at Steere Farm and Gloria will be at Callahan. AT Levy's open house is Thursday, August 25th, Lynne Cianco will be attending for us. Doug Fleurant donated 300 flyers to be able to hand out at open house and to placed throughout the Town and also to keep on hand out at other events.

## **PTF Meeting**

We discussed School events and how we can accommodate students with special needs at these events. For example, AT Levy they host an annual Halloween party, Steere Farm, Callahan and AT Levy hkst the Someone special dances etc. Lisa was looking into the school PTF dates and is going to contact the Presidents of those Committees to attend some of their meetings to see how we can help with their events. This information will be followed up with emails in regards to their meetings.

## **By Laws**

The current by-laws of The Special Education Advisory Committee that are outdated and need to be updated. During the meeting, the updated by-laws were presented and there are some corrections that need to be made. We agreed to review the by-laws and make any necessary corrections and have the bylaws ready to vote on or to discuss any further corrections at the next meeting.

We discussed the SPED Advisory Committee members and the current positions. Leigh Joyle was appointed as the new secretary of the committee beginning, October of this year.

## **Broncopalooza**

This is an event put on by the Burrillville High School Student Council. Broncopalooza is set up like a "family fair" with games, prizes, food, music, and things to purchase. It's held after one of the high school's football games played at home. Currently it looks as those this year it will be 9/24 at 12:30pm. However, this date is not yet final. (sited from Kim Pristwa). We as a committee are thinking about selling popcorn, face painting and handing out flyers. Gloria will be contacting Kim in regards to the event. There is a planning meeting scheduled for **Wednesday, Sept 8th at 6pm. This meeting will be held at the Jesse Smith Library.** I have submitted a room usage form to the library for approval. I will send an email if we are unable to use the Library. If anyone is interested in attending this meeting just let me know.

## **Unified Middle School Basketball**

I sent a email to new principal (Mrs. Lords) in regards to starting a Unified Basketball team in the Middle school. The gentleman at Special Olympic emailed her back right way and would like to have a meeting in September or October to discuss putting together a team. I will keep everyone up to date as progress is made.

Meeting adjourned: 7:15 pm

As always please help and spread the word and share our information on our upcoming meetings.