



Special Education Committee Report

Spring 2010

Committee Members:

Carol Dimitroff (Wayne)
Henry Harris (South Elgin High School) - Chairperson
Mary Gonzalez (Parkwood)
Mary Pat Hirshberg (At-Large)
Pamela Harris (U-46 Admin) – Committee Liaison
Ruth Beckner (Bartlett Elementary)
Joe Hill (South Elgin High School)
Kim Brogan (Hanover Countryside)
Schelli Martin Sanders (Highland)

Approved in Committee:	March 16, 2010
Approved CAC Exec:	March 18, 2010
Approved CAC General:	April 8, 2010
Presented to BoE:	May 17, 2010

Acknowledgements

The CAC Special Education Committee would like to thank Pam Harris and her staff of District U-46 for all their assistance. Also, thank you to CAC Exec and the Board for their continued support for this committee.

Committee Mission

The committee will act as a resource for parents of students in special education or those receiving special services/support by providing information and support; the committee may also research ideas for parent engagement.

Initiatives for 2009 – 2010 School Year

1. Co-ordinate three to four parent information nights
2. Assist with identification of information pamphlets
3. Establish communication with District Special Education administration
4. Determine work that can be accomplished this academic year and next

Summary

We would like to thank CAC Exec and the Board of Education for allowing us to continue the much needed work in this area. There was considerable interest in the committee as attested to by the number of CAC members and others that signed up to participate. There are nine members of the committee from CAC, U-46 Administration and At-Large members. We had membership representation from all the various school levels within the District from elementary through high school. All of us were here for the betterment of the program and our children's experience. We continued our work to establish parent information vehicles the district can use to improve communication and disseminate information.

Accomplishments

1. **Coordinate Parent Information Nights** – We were able to setup two parent information sessions this school year. The first being a meet and greet with the special education supervisors. This session was attended by over 70 parents. They who were able to meet, in small groups, with their student’s assigned supervisor. The second parent session will be held in April (after the writing of this report). The topic will be IEP process and how to get the most out of the meeting. This meeting had to be rescheduled due to weather earlier in February. The committee wanted to setup three parent information night meetings this year but due to the rescheduling of the February meeting, only two meetings were held this year.
2. **Creation of special education topic pamphlets** – The district staff is creating pamphlets in conjunction with parent night topics. A pamphlet was created for an overview of special education programs and services that was handed out at our first parent night. A glossary of terms along with the presentation will be distributed during our second parent information night.
3. **Other Activities included** – 1) How the committee can assist the special education department with their activities. 2) How we can create an online list of available services and agencies. There are a couple of good sources for this information but they are manually maintained.

Recommendations and Goals for 2010-2011 School Year

1. Continue the CAC Special Education Committee for next school year
2. Create a Special Education Events calendar to be posted on the district web site (carry over from last year)
3. Create more parent information pamphlets that coincide with parent nights
4. Create and sponsor more parent education nights
5. Create an online services and agency list.
6. Committee study of other districts special education programs