

## ***CAC Special Education Committee – Meeting Minutes of April 15th, 2014***

### **In attendance:**

Melissa Owens, Sarah Thompson, Mary Gonzalez, Lisa White, Robert Salis, Pamela Harris, Melissa Waxler, Leatrice Satterwhite, Antonita King.

### **I. Call to order:**

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm. Mary Gonzalez moved to approve the March 18, 2014 minutes. Robert Salis seconded the motion; motion was carried.

### **II. Review & Discussion of 2013/14 Report and Goals for 2014/15:**

Melissa Owens and Sarah Thompson presented a draft copy of the Spring 2014 Report for committee review. Minor changes were made to correct grammatical errors and to clarify/enhance certain sections. M Owens will also modify the charts on pages 9 and 10 to make them easier to read.

Discussion moved to the goals and recommendations. The committee feels strongly that we have outgrown the space available in the Elgin High School library for the Parent Resource Fair, and would like to request the use of the gymnasium instead. The committee also is interested in offering multiple presentations during the autumn SPED-University session in order to serve a wider range of parents. The committee will recommend that content be added to the new district website under the Special Education page, including videos of our past events and links to the CAC website.

S Thompson and M Owens began a discussion of a potential recommendation to support a parent-led social/activity based group within the district. Several parents have approached the committee for feedback on either starting a parent support group, or having social activities for parents and/or kids within our committee. M Owens pointed out that we regularly have parents requesting information on support groups and activity groups at our events. M Owens also pointed out that members of the administration have asked whether our committee could offer such activities along with our other events. The parents that have approached the committee with this issue seem to favor the formation of a separate group. The question was raised as to whether we could take it upon ourselves to support the formation of such a group? Other districts in the area have SPED PTO/PTA organizations – could we help develop a SPED PTO here? Several committee members expressed concern about the size of our committee, and whether that should be part of our overall scope. Creating a SPED PTO would be a large undertaking, yet ultimately it was agreed that bringing more parents into district-wide SPED activities would be beneficial for everyone. The committee decided to add a “Special Consideration” section to the Board recommendations, voicing support for the idea of a parent-led group and offering to be a resource for parent leaders wanting to create such a group. S Thompson and M Owens will highlight differences between what a parent-led group could look like versus our committee, in order to highlight the idea for a separate group for the Board.

### **III. Other Business**

The committee had a brief discussion about SPED-U next year, and the search for topics. It was agreed that the session this past fall did meet all of our objectives. It was decided that for SPED-U and for Parent Resource Fair presenters, we will draft a sheet of expectations that we want presenters to meet. We will continue to take questions via cards, with all questions held until the end of the sessions.

S. Thompson and M Owens brought up the possibility of highlights Rtl at SPED-U, in response to the steady feedback we receive about confusion with Rtl implementation in the district. A discussion ensued about the complications with doing a presentation, as interventions are handled differently in every building – would parents be able to learn anything constructive? Melissa Waxler mentioned that Jillian Barker has a brief video presentation that includes some information on Rtl; she will ask J Barker to forward the video to M Owens and S Thompson.

Meeting adjourned by acclamation at 8:20pm.

Next committee meeting will be held on August 19th, 2014 at 6:30pm in room 358, U-46 Educational Services Center at 355 E. Chicago Street, Elgin, IL.

Respectfully submitted by:

Melissa Owens, CAC Special Education Committee Co-Chairperson.