

**Superintendent's District Advisory Panel  
For  
Exceptional Student Education  
Transition Subcommittee Meeting Minutes  
January 24, 2024  
11:00 am**

**Members Present**

Brenda Lampon  
Giselle Mendieta  
Maria Ratti  
Daniela Santana  
Valerie Zenni

**Members Not Present**

Beverly Heller  
Allicia Walford  
Lisa Friedman-Chavez  
Sylvia Calderon  
Maria Henao  
Diane Adream

Meeting was called to order at 11:00 am by Ms. Giselle Mendieta.

**Welcome and Introductions**

- Ms. Mendieta welcomed everyone.

**Purpose of Subcommittee**

Purpose of meeting was reviewed. Committee would review goals and discuss ways to meet our goals for this year.

- ✓ Daniela expressed that we may have already met our first goal. We have the liaisons, but are missing the kids to fill the spots.

- ✓ Valerie suggested we send flyers advertising our programs.
- ✓ Giselle indicated that this is something that the transition team does.
- ✓ Brenda suggested we worked on making connections.
- ✓ It was suggested that Transition Specialists come out to view programs.

Ms. Mendieta reviewed the goals.

- ✓ Maria expressed that Goal #2 is a major goal. She feels the information provided for transition can be intimidating and overwhelming. Counselors at schools are used for more academic tasks. The information provided is not really friendly for parents. She suggested we use an easy model that is friendly to read, and that there should be a contact at each school that handles transition.
- ✓ Brenda suggested using the Parent Academy to support Transition Specialists. Academy volunteers can be trained to help parents. We can start with Parent Academy to assist and then move on to other volunteers. Maybe other parents who have already gone through the process would be able to help.
- ✓ Valerie expressed that parents are even having a hard time accessing the Parent Portal.
- ✓ Giselle suggested that the district may want to consider having some kind of Parent Summit which would focus on providing parents with an array of information on topics related to Special Education. Transition Services could be a part of this informational workshop.
- ✓ Maria expressed that the information is out there, but parents are just too overwhelmed to access it.
- ✓ Valerie cited language as a barrier for some parents.
- ✓ Maria suggested that each school's PTA/PTSA can also send out information on contact personnel for transition services.
- ✓ Giselle indicated that maybe Social Media would be a good tool to use to provide parents with contact and basic information on transition and maybe provide direct links to our website and/or transition site.
- ✓ Daniela expressed that her child is in middle school and she has not yet received any information on transition. She indicated that programs should not be competing with each other, but rather should be complimenting each other.

- ✓ Maria shared the impact the kids make on the people they work with, and their co-workers.
- ✓ Giselle shared updates from Project-10. She indicated that she would send all of the members the information that Ms. Chavez shared.
- ✓ Daniela expressed that parents should be getting information on the programs now since it is currently recruitment time.
- ✓ Maria shared a positive note indicating that she attended a workshop with Autism Speaks. She shared that our county is ahead of the game when it comes to transition. We have resources, and we should focus on the implementation of services.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.

### **Recruitment of Members**

- Ms. Ratti expressed her interest in exploring the Chamber of Commerce of different cities in order to invite them to participate in our meetings.
- It was discussed that we could invite the De Moya Foundation to the meetings as well.

### **Discuss/Set Goals**

- Discussion of possible goals for this school year took place.
  - ✓ Options and Training for Employment-The development of Self-Advocacy, reminding employers of how great hiring individuals with disabilities can be, and opportunities for employment in local businesses and organizations for individuals with disabilities.
  - ✓ Financial Literacy-How to help individuals with disabilities learn to manage their money.
  - ✓ Health and Rehab-How do we prepare individuals for employment through health and rehab.

- Brenda Lampon and Giselle Mendieta will draft possible goal options based on the topics discussed and suggestions provided by the members. These goals will be emailed to all members for review and approval.
- Dates for future meetings will be emailed to all members for review and approval.

Meeting concluded at 12:00 pm.