

G.L.A.S.S.



Greater Lafayette Area Special Services

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**GLASS Advisory Board Meeting
April 18, 2017
Minutes of Meeting**

Members Present:

Mr. Les Huddle, Superintendent, Lafayette School Corporation (LSC); Dr. Scott Hanback, Superintendent, Tippecanoe School Corporation (TSC); Mr. Jacob Burton, Tippecanoe School Corporation Board Member; Dr. Rocky Killion, Superintendent, West Lafayette Community School Corporation (WLCSC); and Mrs. Karen Springer, West Lafayette Community School Corporation Board Member

Greater Lafayette Area Special Services (G.L.A.S.S.) Administrators Present: Toni Skaggs, Director, G.L.A.S.S.; Donna McIlrath, Assistant Director, G.L.A.S.S.; Tom Hermiz, Supervisor, G.L.A.S.S.; Denona Pryor, Supervisor, G.L.A.S.S.; Kelly Wilder, Supervisor, G.L.A.S.S.

1. Call to Order

The Greater Lafayette Area Special Services (G.L.A.S.S.) Advisory Board Meeting was called to order by Mr. Les Huddle.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April 19, 2016, G.L.A.S.S. Advisory Board meeting were presented for approval. Dr. Hanback made the motion, seconded by Dr. Killion, to approve the minutes as presented. There were no additions or corrections to these minutes.

3. Public Comments

Mr. Les Huddle reminded guests that Lafayette School Corporation Board Policy B-118 would be followed during the public participation portion of the meeting. Each individual would have 3 minutes to address the advisory board beginning by stating their name and address. Mr. Les Huddle reminded those present that the Advisory Board generally doesn't respond immediately. If a response is needed, questions need to be directed to Toni Skaggs to follow up with that individual person later.

- Pat Howey, West Point: Provided Advisory Board Members a copy of a letter she wrote to the editor regarding the lack of Stakeholders serving on the Advisory Board. Requested evening meetings. Reported that the minutes from April 19, 2016 meeting were not available prior to the April 18, 2017 meeting.
- Tiffany Kendall, Lafayette: Provided information about "Special Parents Special Kids", a local support group for parents. Reported that parents are indicating that Individual Education Plans are not being followed. Reported facts from a recent parent survey with 82 respondents: 70% wanted an evening meeting, 70% mentioned better staff training was needed, and 99% wanted a parent representative on the G.L.A.S.S. Advisory Board. (Mr. Les Huddle asked Ms. Kendall to follow thru with any individual situations regarding IEP's not being followed by contacting G.L.A.S.S. administration directly or contacting any one of the three Superintendents.)
- Kirsten Maloney, Lafayette: Commented that G.L.A.S.S. staff does not have resources and is not getting extra training. Suggested that additional training be provided to general education teachers

and paraprofessionals. Reported that there needs to be more open and transparent communication. She stated that G.L.A.S.S. is great about responding, but it would be beneficial to parents to have more opportunities to talk and G.L.A.S.S. staff be more accessible.

- Erin Moon-Walker, West Lafayette: Identified herself as an advocate for kids with special needs. Reported that children with disabilities are falling behind their grade level year after year. Suggested that schools inform the community if resources are needed.
- Nina Kirkpatrick, West Lafayette: Reported that G.L.A.S. S. has struggled because of lack of resources. Suggested that parents should work in collaboration with school personnel.
- Patty Useem, West Lafayette: Suggested that the Learning Disabilities Association (LDA) assist with providing training at the state conference and on-site to training to help parents and educators. Suggested that G.L.A.S.S. and the school districts allow LDA to provide information to staff, faculty and parent population. Explained that there are grants from the Governor's Council on Disabilities and the Lilly Foundation are available to help parents/teachers attend LDA conferences for free.
- Dana Moon, Frankfort: Indicated she is concerned about lack of staff training. Questioned if the library staff in schools are trained to assist students identified with disabilities.
- Victoria Woeste, West Lafayette: Explained that she is concerned with the Federal Government if the new Secretary of Education has her way and repeals Special Education Laws. Stated that everyone here wants to help.
- Dana Gant, TSC: Commented that she has struggled working with G.L.A.S.S. staff over the last 6 years. Suggested that monies allotted for each diagnosis should go to students and not just put away. Interested in all parties working together as a collaborative unit. Requested explanation on who to call if relationship is not working with G.L.A.S.S. (Mr. Les Huddle encouraged Mrs. Gant to leave her questions.)
- Cherrelle Sanchez, TSC: Expressed concerns regarding training for Paraprofessionals. Reiterated that there needs to be more than one meeting a year for parents to attend.
- Catherine Orvis, West Point: Recommended that at the very least the board should consider adding a special needs parent to the board so you have that additional voice. Stated that parents recognize it's "advisory" to help give parents a voice so the children have a voice.
- Zach Baiel, West Lafayette: Encouraged transparency. Stated that collaboration is the key to building a society, treating the public as constituents, actually as individuals, and groups are to be integral in the process and not as adversaries as we've heard today is the way that we actually move forward. Concerned about the lack of materials found on the G.L.A.S.S. website. Recommended that evening meetings be offered for parents and that a parent advocate be placed on the Advisory Board.
- Julie Beheler, Lafayette: Asked how many parents on the board are parents of students with special needs. (Mr. Les Huddle redirected her question as not appropriate to ask a private question at this time. He explained that if a board member wanted to respond to the question, he/she can do so after the meeting.) Stated that each child identified with special needs brings in more money to the school system. Requested information on whether the monies follow the specific student. Questioned how the money was being used. (At this point, Kirsten Maloney spoke and stated that the board members are very consciously aware of how that money is supposed to be spent and they can be heavily penalized if it is not being spent properly for our children. Requested that parents need that communication so they know how money is being spent.) (Mr. Les Huddle reminded the patrons that they submit questions after the meeting.)

- Amy Austin, West Lafayette: Suggested that parents be appointed to the board.
 - Annabelle Bennett, West Lafayette: Requested evening meetings and a special education advocate serving on the board so parents feel like they have a voice. Requested a partnership.
4. Improved Communication Initiative
- Toni Skaggs informed the Board that beginning in September 2017, G.L.A.S.S. Administrators will sponsor quarterly evening meetings for parents, educators and community service providers to attend. The purpose of the meetings will be to improve communication among stakeholders. She informed the Board that the topics, agendas and locations will vary. The meetings will be designed to give protocol to parents, educators and community service providers on who to contact regarding special education programming vs. individual cases. In addition, parent trainings will be provided.
5. Joint services Agreement
- Toni Skaggs informed the Board that the three school districts, LSC, TSC and WLCSC work together with G.L.A.S.S. to operate programs and services for children with exceptional needs. A copy of the Joint Service Agreement was available at the meeting. The three districts are responsible for providing appropriate resource rooms for students identified with a variety of disabilities. The G.L.A.S.S. administration structure includes two administrators and three supervisors to assist with Preschool, LSC and WLCSC and TSC. Responsibilities of each administrator can be found on the G.L.A.S.S. website under the 2017 Advisory Board PowerPoint.
6. Projected Enrollments
- The following information was reviewed and presented by G.L.A.S.S. Administration:
- Toni Skaggs: Student Enrollment Trends by Corporation and Disabilities
 Donna McIlrath: Enrollment of Out of District Students
 Tom Hermiz: Student Enrollment at Linnwood Developmental Preschool and Preschool Programs at Mintonye Elementary and Wyandotte Elementary. Student Enrollment at Community Preschools and shared an explanation of the Preschool Service Delivery Models. A list of Preschool Partners was presented.
 Toni Skaggs: Non-public School Enrollment, Staff (certified and non-certified), and Psychology Services
 Tom Hermiz: Speech Services including Augmentative and Alternative Communication
 Denona Pryor: Life Skills Programming, Classrooms for student needing Behavioral Support
 Donna McIlrath: Autism Services, Alternative School Enrollment
 Denona Pryor: Manifestation Determination Conferences
 Donna McIlrath: Homebound Enrollment, and Related Services of Occupational and Physical Therapy
7. Professional Development Summary
- Toni Skaggs reviewed the list of trainings and workshops attended by staff. Department meetings attended by staff was also shared. She reviewed the growing list of community partners.
8. IDOE Indicator Updates
- Indicator 5 (Least Restrictive Environment) Kelly Wilder reviewed information and spoke of the TSC Technical Assistance Plan in which they will be collaborating with Indiana Resource Network, training general education teachers, special education teachers and principals. They also sent general and special education teachers to Focus on Inclusion state conference. A series of three Co-Teaching Trainings were provided to TSC teachers and schools are tracking LRE frequently by building and district.

- Indicator 5 (Least Restrictive Environment) Denona Pryor reviewed the LSC Technical Assistance Plan for collaborating with Indiana Resource Network and professional development with a focus on differentiation & culturally responsive practices.
- Indicator 10 (Disproportionality Overrepresentation of students) Denona Pryor described the LSC Corrective Action Plan comprised of consultation services with Renae Azziz to include building walk-throughs, staff survey and professional development with a focus on culturally responsive practices. Indicator 8 (Parent Survey) Toni Skaggs shared data from 2015-2016. There were 459 responses from parents.
- Indicator 11 & 12 (Evaluation Timelines) Toni Skaggs explained that all 3 districts are compliant and meeting evaluation timelines.
- Indicator 13 (Transition) Toni Skaggs explained that all 3 districts are writing compliant transition IEPs.

9. Special Recognition

Toni Skaggs noted special recognition for TSC Teacher of the Year Brandy Cain from Dayton and Andrew Hawk at Woodland. Debby Cross, GLASS Psychologist has been the President for the Indiana Association of School Psychologists for 2016-2017.

Also noted were grants received.

- Wabash National Grant, Accessible Playground Equipment 2016-2017—Stephanie Brennan, Earhart Life Skills Program
- Phi Kappa Delta Grant, Scientific Calculators 2016-2017—Jennifer Hasser & Jennifer Peterson, TSC Resource Room at Harrison High School
- Breakfast Optimist Club Grant, Reading Materials 2016-2017—Brandy Cain, TSC Resource Room at Dayton Elementary
- Grants: Men Who Give/Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette, Harrison Kiwanis & other private donors, World Foods & Cultures 2016-2017—Bruce Hall, Learning Center Program
- Breakfast Optimist Club Grant, Sensory Items 2016-2017—Tracy Trice, TSC Special Education Resource Room at Wyandotte Elementary
- Wabash National Grant-Supplies/Equipment for Pre-Vocational Classroom (Collaboration with Wabash Center)—Tonya Grimm & Peggy Hege, Transition Coordinators supporting 3 Districts.
- Purdue University Fraternity Monetary Contribution was made for the Life Skills Program at Jefferson High School

10. Next Scheduled Meeting

The next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, April 17, 2018 with the time and location to be determined.

11. Additional Items

Dr. Scott Hanback voiced concern regarding the lack of staffing in special education areas. He reiterated that G.L.A.S.S. administration would be attending five upcoming recruitment fair opportunities. Another concern was the potential for government changes and effects of potential changes to Every Student Succeeds Act.

Dr. Rocky Killion made a motion to adjourn the meeting and with a second from Mrs. Karen Springer, the meeting was adjourned.