

PASE Meeting Minutes

November 27, 2023

Members Present: Jodi Bajko, Heather Bright, Maria Carranco, Jennifer Craig, Crystal Delaney, Kassie Franklin, Jennifer Gard, Marie Griffiee, Lindsey Kloeckner, Aryn Manni, Maria Mora-Bowen, Emily Pertont, Erin Richardson, Karen Schwedler, Jordan Smith, Jen Walli

Guests: Wendy Dubuisson, Jenny Hall, Sheree Harmon, Toni Moore, Ashley Mullins, Genevieve Nelson

Excused: Amanda Dill, Katie Foote, Ciara Selden-Ruffin, Nate Steinberg

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Election of Positions within PASE

- A. Chair: Aryn Manni
- B. Vice Chair: Karen
- C. Secretary: Lindsey Kloeckner

Motion to approve the vote was made by Maria Carranco and seconded by Heather Bright

III. Approve Minutes from October 2, 2023

Minutes were provided before the meeting. Aryn Manni made the motion to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Heather Bright.

IV. Kent ISD Special Education Advisory Update

- A. New council as a result of combining two groups
- B. Update with Better Together theme
- C. Director retreat review
- D. Staffing shortages
- E. Least restrictive environment
- F. Center programming in terms of financing / updates
- G. Hired an Assistant Director of Center Programs
- H. Early On numbers are down
- I. LRE for Early Childhood Education

V. SibShop Presentation

- A. Panel of presenters:
 - 1. Andrea: SibShop Facilitator/Coordinator
 - 2. Grace: SibShop Participant
 - 3. Emma: Adult Sib & SibShop Volunteer
 - 4. Hannah: Adult Sib & SibShop volunteer
 - 5. Mia: Adult Sib & SibShop Volunteer
 - 6. William: SibShop participant
 - 7. Stacey: SibShop Parent
- B. Peer support groups for children w/ siblings with special needs
- C. Started by Sibling Support Project

D. Why SibShops?

1. Sisters and brothers will likely have the longest-lasting relationships with a sibling with disabilities. Participants talk about their experiences with other siblings who “get it”
 2. Sessions include:
 - a) Ice breakers
 - b) Fun activities to connect while sharing about sibling experience
 - c) Sibling Spotlight
 - d) Snacks
 - e) Share what they’ve learned that day
 - f) Peer support time
- E. The students share a vulnerability by showing up and creating a space together
- F. Two groups in Grand Rapids
1. Younger group (ages 6 to 10)
 2. Older group (ages 11 and up)
- G. 1 group in Zeeland (Ages 6 to 13)
- H. Sibling fly under the radar
- I. Siblings with disabilities get the majority of the focus/attention in a family, this time is just for the neurotypical siblings
- J. The deep love and protection of their sibling is celebrated at SibShop
- K. Sibs are lonely, and are worried about the future.
- L. They find solace in shared experiences.

VI. **504 versus IEP** – This topic was pushed to out next meeting

VII. **Communicating Resources**

- A. If you find resources other parents should know about, email them to Jennifer.
- B. Doing currently:
 1. Monthly newsletter
 2. Parenting guide
 3. Website
 4. Documentary event in the spring
- C. Would like to do:
 1. Connect directly with teachers
 2. Social media
- D. What could we do:
 1. Brainstorm around social media
 2. Share with school OT/PT/Speech

VIII. **Public Comment and Closing**

The next meeting is February 5th.