

Mercer County Special Services School District SEPAG Meeting 5/17/21
Joint meeting of SEPAG members and Administration, open to public

Meeting hosted by Monique dujue Wilson from SPAN, reviewed handouts to be made available. www.spanadvocacy.org The start project is there to support parents to improve programs and services, and improve family engagement.

Interim Superintendent Brian Bittings was welcomed to the meeting as was newly hired Supervisor of Student Services Tammy Lascar

Mr Bittings confirmed schools would be following a full time schedule starting with ESY and into September. He advised each Principal would be the contact for any planning for each building.

During Parent Speak out several concerns were brought up.

- Needing a permanent Principal for the schools
- Improve the lack of communication
- Concern that parents issues are not communicated to principals
- Questions as to what tools principals have to communicate with parents.*

*Tammy stated they are looking at a new communication platform for the district which would be useful in contacting those in the districts or teachers or parents.

- Request for a teacher and staff emails list be provided on the website.
- Questions on how to contact case managers
- The school brochures was not on the website
- Questions were raised about indicating each and every program available at each school should be available to parents.
- One parent mentioned tremendous success for the student upon returning to in person teaching
- A concern for help for children needing to rehab back into school, what provisions are there for transitioning back into the building *

*Mr. Bittings advised the staff was receiving training in this area.

- Concerns of how the teachers are facing the challenges regarding the non verbal children and how they are adapting back to school.*

*Mr Bittings advised the staff also has professional learning groups to support each other as they work together to deal with arising issues with students.

- The concern of moving staff between buildings to fill positions should need to make sense and not just moved to fill a gap.

The steering committee of the MCSSSD Sepag was introduced.
The SEPAG is looking for a secretary to take notes during meetings for minutes.
Also, a second representative for each school is also being sought.
Those interested can reach out via email at mcsssdsepag@gmail.com
Emails will be reviewed by the steering committee and information kept confidential.

Monique reviewed resources for parents and available training for help with children or to become an advocate.
Span also has a youtube site.
Monique reviewed School Health NJ and encouraged involvement for the whole child as well as to apply for non competitive grants.

Next SEPAG meeting to establish our vision will be June 14th. This will be for SEPAG members.

The slides will be uploaded to the SEPAG page on the website