



Washington Township Schools

~ A Community of 21st-Century Learners ~

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JEFFREY S. MOHRE, SUPERINTENDENT

RICHARD C. PAPER, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

LIZ GEORGE, SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

~ Special Education Parent Advisory Committee ~

June 8, 2017 ~ 10:00 a.m.

~ Meeting Summary ~

TOPICS SHARED & DISCUSSED

Professional Development: Effecting Positive Behavioral Changes

The District launched professional development efforts this school year to assist children who present specific, challenging behaviors. Efforts were focused on the causes of behaviors as well as strategies for modifying and distinguishing certain behaviors. In addition, the District is supporting faculty and applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapists with two behavior specialists (one Board Certified Behavior Analyst and one Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst).

Elementary to Middle School – Fostering Student Growth and Independence

There has been a concentrated effort the past two school years to examine related services provided to children and ensure that such are promoting, not inhibiting, individual student growth and independence.

Rethinking Aides as a Related Service

The District has worked with its professionals to underscore the importance of crafting specific student goals when recommending an aide as a related service. When the goals have been met and a child is functioning independently and meeting with success, consideration must be given to the fading of the aide service. Current research indicates that children can become “prompt dependent” if they learn to over rely on an aide in lieu of becoming increasingly independent.

Multi-Sensory Reading Instruction

The District is in its second year of providing high level professional development to faculty centered on the Orton-Gillingham approach to early reading instruction. An 18-hour professional learning series has been conducted for teachers in grades kindergarten through second. The training has expanded the strategies primary grade teachers use in their balanced literacy program. Plans are currently underway to continue the effort in the year ahead.

Next Meeting Date ... Fall 2017

Jeff Mohre, Superintendent
Maryann Millar, Supervisor of Special Education & Related Services