

# Special Education Parent Advisory Committee Minutes

**Date:** Thursday, September 15, 2016 **Time:** 5:30 pm

**Location:** Special Education Conference Room Central Education Campus

## Agenda:

### 1. New Special Education Staffing (new hires and changes)

#### Raven Stream:

Kristin Dorick - school social worker  
Molly Schmidley - special education teacher  
Kristi Root - special education teacher

#### High School:

Nikki Hachfeld - school social worker  
Susie Mahowald - special education teacher  
Chris Hirdler - .5 Chemical Health Counselor

#### Middle School:

Tanner Oakes - special education teacher

#### Staffing Changes:

**St. Wenc. and Holy Cross:** Emily Wilson, special education teacher, who came from Raven Stream.

**Eagle View:** Nancy Sackett, special education teacher, who came from the Middle School.

**Falcon Ridge:** Tracy Torgerson, special education teacher, who came from the Middle School.

**Middle School:** Jill Elliott, special education teacher, who went from .5 to full time.

### 2. Mental Health Services in the schools

Mental Health Therapist Contracted through Scott County Mental Health  
Chemical Health Counselor shared with Jordan School District

The Mental Health Therapist, Sammi Johnson, started February of 2016. This is a contracted service through Scott County Mental Health. These services are therapy, therefore referrals and service do have to meet a certain criteria for services and insurance is billed for services. She works District-wide. Sammi not only works with students, but also provides professional development and training to staff.

The Chemical Health Counselor, Chris Hirdler, is a shared position with the Jordan School District. He started this August. Chris is primarily at the High School/ALC, but is also a great resource for professional development, consulting, and providing resources and supports District-wide. Both of these experts have been a wonderful addition and a wealth of knowledge.

### 3. Construction updates as related to delivery of special education services and programs

Please review following link for week to week updates.

[NPAS Construction Updates](#)

### 4. Community Speaker Katie Smith

**Community Conversation About Childhood - September 29th at the New Prague High School**  
**\*\* Childcare will be provided through Community Education. Registration is required for childcare.**

Join **Katy Smith**, Parent Educator from Winona and the 2011 Minnesota Teacher of the Year in a lively conversation about childhood and what kids need from it. **Katy** is passionate about the creating champions for childhood in the adults who care about kids whether they are parents, providers, teachers or community members. Important life skills are wired in those first years of life. Today's culture of childhood has taken a sharp turn from teaching kids those life skills. **Katy** is a storyteller and a community educator who will inspire us to reclaim those skills on behalf of children. You will leave armed with plenty of food for thought, and new skills. This will be a fun, entertaining evening of hopeful conversation.

### 5. Other topics brought forth by attendees

## **Action Items:**

Set up future meeting

Future meeting date TBD - please respond to let us know if you prefer an evening or morning time. Next meeting, we would like to invite one of our speech and language pathologists to come in to discuss speech and language development and services in the schools.

## **Follow Up items:**

- 1.
- 2.

## **Next Meetings:**