

Watervliet School Improvement Team: Special Education

11/01/2007
8:00 AM to 11:00 AM
Hanratta Apts.

Meeting called by: Janelle Yanni

Type of meeting:
SINI Special Ed

Facilitator: Janelle Yanni

Note taker: Mary
Alice Hipwell

Timekeeper: Tracy Coffey

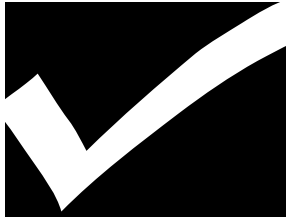
Attendees: Janelle Yanni, Mary Alice Hipwell, Melissa Kussler, Wendy O'Brien, Dave Wareing, Kathy Bisceglia, Carolyn Proctor, Alison Pendergrass, Mary Pat Murtaugh, Michael Foust and Tracy Coffey

Please bring: Mary Pat, Mary Alice and Melissa – Curriculum guidelines for special ed. programs

----- Agenda Topics -----

Review Agenda	Janelle	5
Share roles	Janelle	5
Go over 2 articles - Leading Change? Four best practices for productive communications and Systems Thinker	All	20
Look at current practices	All	30
Look at district needs	All	30
Look at curriculum mapping for special ed. Programs – look over standards for ELA and Math	Groups of 3	45
Discussion regarding strengths and weaknesses	All	40
Next steps	Janelle	5

Other Information



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Attendees: All were present

Please bring: curriculum maps

----- Agenda Topics -----

Review Agenda

Janelle

5

Discussion: Janelle facilitated by reviewing agenda. The committee spoke on time management issues. Janelle reflected on her own time and how she mentally prepares for CSE meetings. Janelle stated, "We are not just meeting to meet; we will get things done."

Conclusions: We will try to keep to the time frame for the agenda.

Action items:

NA

Person responsible:

NA

Share roles	Janelle	5
<p>Discussion: The SINI Special Ed. Committee took on different roles for this meeting. The sub-committee felt that change of responsibility was needed. This would allow members to participate in a different role. Share the responsibility.</p>		
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<p>Conclusions: We will share responsibilities.</p>		
<p>Action items: Timekeeper: Tracy Coffey, Note Taker: Mary Alice Hipwell</p>	<p>Person responsible: Tracey and MaryAlice</p>	<p>Deadline: NA</p>
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Go over 2 articles - Leading Change?	All	20
Four best practices for productive communications and Systems Thinker		
<p>Discussion: We talked about the following terms: debate, competitiveness, dialogue and discussion. Sub-committee members agreed that dialogue and discussion are vital. Janelle stated, "Together there is a leadership team, not one leader."</p>		
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<p>Conclusions: Types of communication were discussed.</p>		
<p>Action items: NA</p>	<p>Person responsible: NA</p>	<p>Deadline: NA</p>
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Look at current practices	All	30
<p>Discussion: What are current practices in regards to Special Education? A list was generated: implementation of testing accommodations, teacher assistants, consultant teachers, self-contained classrooms, integrated (cluster) classrooms, related services, AIS services (remedial services), disciplinary support (manifestation hearings), Child Study Teams (now called Student Behavior Team or SBIT)</p>		
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<p>Conclusions: There are some really good practices in place</p>		
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<p>Action items:</p> <p>NA</p>	<p>Person responsible:</p> <p>NA</p>	<p>Deadline:</p> <p>NA</p>
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Look at district needs	All	30
<p>Discussion: A list was generated: test manager (for training, tracking implementing testing accommodations), teacher assistant training for implementing accommodations, testing facility (a consistent testing space is needed), restructuring curriculum support (look at more push-in services similar to consultant teacher), written communication (documentation with regular education teachers), better transition from middle school to junior high, buddy homeroom/buddy program (pairing upper classman with younger students similar to mentoring)</p>		
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<p>Conclusions: This list will need to be prioritized.</p>		
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<p>Action items:</p> <p>Prioritize list</p>	<p>Person responsible:</p> <p>All</p>	<p>Deadline:</p> <p>December 3rd at 3:00 – after school meeting.</p>
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Look at curriculum mapping for special ed. programs

Groups of 3

45

Discussion: Discussion took place regarding special education maps. It was reported that special education teachers are faced with several challenges when mapping multi-grade level curriculum. Suggestions were made for special education teachers to view other special education maps on Mapster. Also, special education teachers should not create their own maps from scratch; instead look at how they would modify the already created grade-level, subject area map. The following questions were raised during this discussion: How do special education teachers map? Does an IEP or NYS Standards/Test (accessing grade-level curricula) prevail? What is the solution? Is there a balance? How do we define the goals/objectives? We discussed that the mapping should be a modification of the maps done by grade level (elem.) and subject area (high school). Wendy O'Brien, Daniele DeInnocentiis (two psychologists) and I will be attending a conference on 11/14 based on the special education regulations and hopefully we will be able to bring back useful information to the district regarding special education and the NYSS. We talked about how the regular education and special education teachers must each provide their own part of the balance regarding meeting the IEP goals and exposing the students to the standards and assessments. We also discussed professional development that will be provided regarding the writing of goals for our students so that they will have more focus on the learning standards.

Conclusions: Many of the questions that were raised brought about many answers, but also we will try to find more answers through the conference that Wendy, Daniele, and I will be attending and the professional development that will be offered to our special education teachers.

Action items: Janelle, Wendy and Daniele will ask these questions at an upcoming conference and will report back to the SINI Sub-Committee.

Person responsible:

Deadline:

Janelle and Wendy

December 3rd meeting

Discussion regarding strengths and weaknesses

All

40

Discussion: These strengths and weaknesses were discussed within the previous agenda items of current practices and district needs.

Conclusions: We will prioritize district needs and brainstorm solutions at next after school meeting.

Action items:

Person responsible:

Deadline:

Prioritize list

All

December 3rd meeting.

Next steps	Janelle	5
<u>Discussion:</u> We discussed what the next steps for our sub-committee should be.		
<u>Conclusions:</u> We will need to prioritize list with brainstorming for possible solutions.		
<p>Action items: Feedback from Teacher Assisnat Professional Development – Carolyn Proctor will report. Feedback on IEP and other special education issues – professional development – Wendy O-Brien and Janelle Yanni will report. Next meeting December 3, 2007 3:00-4:00 WHS Room 207. Next sub-committee meeting January 30, 2008 11:30 am – 2:30 pm. Mr. Wareing is handling the lunch menu.</p>	<p>Person responsible: Carolyn Proctor, Wendy O’Brien and Janelle Yanni</p>	<p>Deadline: December 3, 2007 3:00 – 4:00.</p>

Other Information
