

## SEPAG Minutes

02/29/24

### **Committee Members present:**

Juana Reyes  
Juana Trejo-Reyes

### **Administration Present:**

Lori Cohen

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#### **I. Juana Trejo-Reyes and Yael Shafrir- Welcoming remarks**

#### **II. Discussion on slides led by Lori Cohen**

1. Modular Classrooms will be installed this summer in the courtyard at Hillside School. This will provide 8 additional classrooms for small group instruction. The maximum number of students in the groups will be 8.
2. Parents were reminded that they are valued members of the IEP meetings. They have 15 days to review the draft. Ms. Cohen spoke with case managers and an agreement was made for parents to receive the draft of the IEP one day in advance. Ms. Cohen will attend the SEPAG meeting on 3/21/24 to walk parents through the sections of the IEP. Parents were encouraged to send questions to [rochlin@nvnet.org](mailto:rochlin@nvnet.org).
3. Parents were also reminded to review the Parental Rights in the Special Education guide (PRISE) as it is an important resource.
4. Ms. Cohen reviewed the names of staff members in both Hillside and Tenakill who provide students with services

### **Case Managers:**

- Leeenn Cameron-HES
- Eileen Kennedy - HES
- Maci De Carlo- TMS
- Laurie Rochlin- TMS

### **Related Service Providers:**

- Nancy Saccoccio- OT
- Travis Jackson- OT-COTA
- Gila Rochlin- Speech
- Cara Kupersmith- Speech

- Kathy Hedenberg- Speech

**Behaviorists:**

- Liz Apollo- HES
- Kelli Casseta- TMS

**Counseling Services:**

- Krystina Bisig- West Bergen
- Leeann Cameron- HES
- Maci DeCarlo-TMS
- Laura Wiseman- Region 3

**Hillside Special Education Teachers:**

- Lori Scalera
- Michelle Kuryllo
- Lisa Pantaleo
- Kari Corcoran
- Trish Brett
- Lauran Engle
- Jamie Morgan
- Kate Gibney
- Ashley Buckley

**Tenakill Special Education Teachers:**

- Angela Banta
- Erika Dunn
- Brittany Steele
- Chris Rota
- Cathy Lanni
- Karent Caruso
- Michelle Durocher
- Jen Annese
- Shannon San George
- Olivia Nikol

**Schoology at TMS:**

- To locate your child's assignment and resources go to : [closter.schoology.com](https://closter.schoology.com)
- Schoology is the starting point
- Power points are not posted but assignments and resources are.

**III. Suggestions/concerns shared by attendees:**

### **Parent Comments:**

- There is too much emphasis on academics at the middle school level.
- Hillside School should offer social skills training for all students who are in need. This service was offered in the past.
- A document of the special education process should be on the school's website.
- Teachers' understanding of the student's needs and learning style takes time and there is concern that resource teachers are changed on a yearly basis. It was suggested for the same teacher to provide resource services to the same student for a minimum of two years.
- Parents expressed concerns with the transition to high school for special education students. They feel that there is a lot of conversation among students and staff regarding college prep and honors classes. Parents suggested a special presentation for special education students so students could be more comfortable. This was reportedly offered in the past.
- Parents suggested that notifications regarding the SEPAG meeting to be sent 2 weeks in advance or be scheduled for a particular week each month.

### **Ms. Cohen reported the following:**

- Counselors are busy and speech therapists are currently assisting with case managers.
- There is no instruction and/or services being provided in the hallway.
- Teachers are not obligated to enter their powerpoint presentations on schoology. Administration is addressing with teachers that information/assignments have to be entered and updated in schoology.
- Tenakill offers student and parent orientation.
- She will inquire regarding a special presentation for special education students regarding high school transition.
- She is planning a special tour from Hillside School to Tenakill school for students who have an IEP and/or are vulnerable.
- She will follow up with possible social skills group at Hillside School
- Transition from TMS to NVD- There is a meeting with parent, student, NVD representative, and TMS guidance counselor that takes place around January to discuss placement and selection of classes. There is also a student picnic in June and an orientation in August. There is also parent orientation at NVD.

**Thank you for attending our meeting and we look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on Thursday, March 21st at 7 PM at Tenakill Middle School Library, Second Floor.**

**SEPAG Meeting Dates Remaining in the 2023-2024 School Year:**

March 21<sup>st</sup>

April 25<sup>th</sup>

May 23<sup>rd</sup>

Note: Meetings are generally occur on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, however, during break months, meetings generally occur on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month.

**SEPAG INFORMATION**

SEPAG website: <https://www.closterschools.org/SEPAG>

If you or someone you know would like to be added to the email list please send an email to [DrRenataMartins@gmail.com](mailto:DrRenataMartins@gmail.com)