

## SEPAG Minutes

10/17/24

### Committee Members present:

Yael Shafir  
Juana Trejo-Reyes  
Kelly Martins

### Administration Present:

Lori Cohen

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#### I. Welcoming remarks

#### II. Discussion with Mrs. Cohen

- a. Mrs. Wiseman runs a **social skills group** on Tuesdays at Hillside and Wednesdays at Tenakill.
- b. It is hoped that a **SELF classroom** can be established at Tenakill given student needs and the success of the SELF classroom at Hillside, but no promises because discussions are still underway.
- c. The child study team has been working on **transition planning**, including parent and student meetings. They have added a “VIP” tour of Tenakill for students in special education to help alleviate anxiety and so they can know what to anticipate next year. The case managers at the high school have been working with Tenakill case managers to support that transition. There will be a special orientation at the high school for special education parents.
- d. The **Tenakill Enrichment Program** (for gifted children) has a new teacher and acceptance into the program is determined by test, recommendation and learner profile examination.
- e. The **Hillside Enrichment Program** meets once a week and is available to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders. Acceptance into the program is determined by test, recommendation and learner profile examination.
- f. Tenakill is moving from Schoology to **Google Classroom** next year and some teachers have made the shift this year.
- g. Parents last year expressed concerns about having enough paras and Mrs. Cohen informed us that another para was just hired so they are fully staffed at this time.
- h. Some parents were curious about how to support children during recess and it was recommended that parents talk with their case manager to address individual needs.

- i. A parent asked for additional information about the level of support in the **different types of classrooms** available to students. Each grade has a Collaborative classroom which has a special education teacher and a general education teacher. Pull out/replacement classes are available. Small group learning communities are available and are designed for students who need more support than other levels. Students are heavily supported in this classroom. At Hillside small learning communities are divided into two groups: K-2 and 2-4 and have 11 children with a support para. At Tenakill they have about 5-8 children across all grades with a support para. The SELF classroom provides social emotional learning and support for children whose behaviors/emotions are getting in the way of their learning and modifications are based on each student's needs. Student attendance in this class can be variable depending on their needs – some kids spend the entire day there while others spend only part of their day in that classroom. This classroom does not have a modified curriculum – students complete the same work they would have in the general education classroom.

### **III. Closing Remarks and Invitation**

Parents and caregivers are invited to the **Bergen County Transition Fair** presented by NJSEAA and DVRS 11/21/2024 6-8 PM at Paramus High School in Paramus, NJ. The fair will focus on post-21 supports, resources, educational, vocational, and social programs available to young adults with disabilities in and around Bergen County.

**Thank you for attending our meeting and we look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on Thursday, 11/21/2024 from 7-8:30 PM at the Tenakill Middle School Library, Second Floor.**

#### **Upcoming SEPAG Meeting Dates**

11/21/2024 – 7-8:30 PM

12/12/2024 – 7-8:30 PM

#### **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)