

Special Education Parent Group

April 28, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Welcome/introductions

Information was available on programs offered at Turnstone for their April to June program scheduling for: intellectual and developmental disabilities; health and wellness; and physical disabilities and visual impairments. Brochures were available from Special Olympics Allen County.

Guest Speakers

Rio James, Coordinator and Kenna Davis, Communications Specialist from Turnstone shared information on the many types of programs now offered at Turnstone with the expansion over the last few years. Turnstone offers PT, OT and Speech services, as well as childcare for ages 2-13. There is an extensive fitness center that people can join on a monthly basis or pay on a drop-in schedule. Anyone can stop in for a tour or call and schedule a tour to see the equipment, track and pool. Scheduling for Turnstone programs is on a quarterly basis (April – June currently). Many different programs are offered such as basketball, floor hockey, tennis, cycling, goalball, wheelchair basketball, archery, and dance class. A dance for adults is offered as well as a new teen dance. Turnstone is partnering with Special Olympics to offer the Unified Sports Fitness Club where those involved utilize MovBands to track their steps and set team and individual goals. This program is for people with and without disabilities and includes discussion on healthy eating and lifestyle habits.

Website: <http://turnstone.org>

Julie Burkholder from Special Olympics Allen County provided information on their many programs. Special Olympics services about 15,000 athletes ages 8 and up in Indiana each year with their traditional and unified (people with and without disabilities competing together) programs. Different sports are offered throughout the year such as bowling, basketball, track, golf and corn toss. The Area 3 Games is on 5/5 at 5:30 at Homestead High School. Anyone is welcome to come watch and cheer on the athletes. The State Games are held at Indiana State University in June, where 4,000 athletes will compete over three days.

The Champions Together program is in conjunction with IHSAA and is currently at 101 high schools throughout the state including Homestead High School. The program has expanded to include Sectionals, Regionals and State meets. Unified Champions is for Pre-K – 8th grade and started in our school district this year. There are currently 33 districts in the state with this program. Game day for the preschool is 5/9 and the K-8th grade Game Day is on 5/13.

Participants in these programs gain confidence and skills that can carry over into other aspects of their life at school, on the job, and in the community. Volunteers are welcome and can choose to volunteer for a single event or for an ongoing activity.

Website: <http://www.specialolympicsallencounty.org>

Education Update

An interesting website is Vic's Statehouse Notes: http://icpe2011.com/At_the_Statehouse.html

Special Education Director Roxanne May gave an update of legislative proposals.

- During this legislative session it was decided by legislators that in the future the State Superintendent of Education will be appointed instead of elected.
- ABA will be reviewed regarding clinic materials, licensing, etc.
- Beginning in 2018 a child can have a preschool eligibility for services of Developmental Disability and can continue under that eligibility up until age 9.
- If restraint or seclusion is used, the School Resource Officer will be involved with creating a report and the reporting requirements for utilization of restraint or seclusion will be reviewed and established by a commission.
- Budget areas of discussion included vouchers and charter school auditing

Parent Group

Speaker ideas for future meetings included a Financial Advisor and a representative from the Indiana Resource Center for Autism at Indiana University.

The meeting schedule for 2017-2018 will be posted on the SACS website once confirmed.