

Special Education Parent Group
April 29, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Welcome/introductions

Guest Speaker was Suzanne Yuhasz, IPFW Bridges Program Coordinator. Ms. Yuhasz gave information and answered questions about the new Bridges program. Students apply to the Bridges program and interview. Once admitted into the program students have a peer mentor. Students in the program can be degree-seeking or not and have the option to live on campus. Students take classes on career and personal development. Students gain experience and knowledge that makes them more marketable for a job. Ms. Yuhasz can be contacted for more information at 260-481-6592. The website for the program is: ipfw.edu/bridges.

Director of Special education Roxanne May gave an update on legislative issues. Now that ESSA passed, IDEA will be reauthorized and Article 7, the law governing special education in Indiana, will be redone to match IDEA. The state is looking at options for student testing and has set up a committee to make recommendations. Diploma and certificate of completion requirements could be reviewed and changed in the future.

A parent from Covington and a parent from Haverhill shared what their schools did to observe Disability Awareness Month in March.

Communication of this group – A Facebook page is being developed. A one-page document about this group was created and copied onto blue paper and sent home by the Teacher of Record with students this week. This one-page information sheet will also be given to new families that move into the district and at each annual case conference meeting. An email list has been started. Hopefully knowledge about the group will spread and families will be interested in participating. The schedule of meetings for 2016-2017 will be set soon and posted on the district website.