



Ionia County Parent Advisory Committee



Minutes

November 28, 2022

6:00-7:30 PM

Ionia County ISD

- ❖ **Present:** Caroline Debaba, Rachel Gehrcke, Vickie Hair, Stephanie Herbstreith, Brian Kelley, Sara Possehn, Cyndi Geiger (ISD), Angie Miller (ISD), Beth Hudson (BAS), Kathy Foote (ISD), Mark Sly (ISD), Jimmy Nuse (IPS), Jim Lóser (ISD)
- ❖ **Absent:** Jessica Crandell, Candace Hall, Sarah Dawson (PPS), Jodi Duits (LPS), Sarah Milbratz (SCS)

1. Updates provided by the following:

- a. Ben Woolston, ASD Supervisor
 - i. Teacher Shortage
 - ii. Fully Staffed despite Teacher Shortage
 - iii. 3 Teachers Finished their BCBA's
 - iv. Started Providing Peer to Peer Programming
- b. Jodi Duits, SE Coordinator for Lakewood PS
 - i. 10 Special Education Teachers
 - ii. 4 Schools – Full Time Special Education Classrooms
- c. Cyndi Geiger, Administrator for Accountability & Program Improvement
 - i. Had 3 Social Workers leave for Maternity Leave at the Same Time
 - ii. She had to fill in for Social Work
 - iii. Hired 4 Virtual Social Workers
 - iv. Short Staffed
 - v. 2 Social Workers are already back from Maternity Leave
 - vi. There is a BCBA Behavior Coach to help Teachers work on Goals
 - vii. Hired one Speech Teacher
 - viii. Down one School Psychologist
 - ix. Deaf and Hard of Hearing Teacher leaving soon
- d. Angie Miller, Principal for Freedom Acres School
 - i. SCI & SEI Classrooms (Severely Cognitively Impaired & Severely Emotionally Impaired)
 - ii. Renovation of the New Building
 - iii. New Playground
 - iv. Partnered with The Right Door, DHHS, Have Mercy, and Other Agencies
 - v. 2 Vacancy's for Health Care Aids
- e. Kathy Foote, AT and PI-OHI Supervisor
 - i. Short Staffed
 - ii. Hard to get someone to Apply
 - iii. Have a good Relationship with the School Districts



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- f. Beth Hudson, SE Coordinator for Belding Area Schools
 - i. Fully Staffed
 - ii. Started up Peer to Peer Programing
 - iii. Received \$10,000 Grant from DHHS for 1 Year
- g. Mark Sly, Administrator for Accountability & Program Improvement
 - i. Staff Shortage
 - ii. Has been trying not to shuffle staff as much as he can
 - iii. Job sight training for job skills
 - iv. Teach students how to Interview
 - v. Helps young adults be productive
 - vi. House set up to learn how to be productive and independent in the home
 - vii. Get on a list for adult foster care as soon as you can. Long waiting list
 - viii. All four programs offered can go up to Age 26
 - ix. These kids get to walk with their peers at graduation, but do not get their diploma until they have met their transition goals
- h. Jimmy Nuse, SE Director for Ionia PS
 - i. All classrooms staffed by special education teachers
 - ii. Short a School Social Worker and a School Psychologist
 - iii. All teachers have the materials they need
- i. Sarah Dawson, SE Coordinator for Portland PS: No report
- j. Sarah Milbratz, SE Coordinator for Saranac Community Schools: No report

Next Meeting: January 30, 2023 at 6:00 PM at the ISD: Touring the Transition Training Sites (Jim will be driving a van; we can meet at the ISD)

Minutes submitted by Secretary, Stephanie Herbstreith