



## BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Dr. James Mangutz, President
- Nancy Persing, Vice President
- Jim Gendernalik, Treasurer
- Lyn Sperry, Secretary
- Ian Faulkner, Trustee
- Brie Molaison, Trustee
- Kara Mularz, Trustee

## ADMINISTRATION

- Shawn Petri, Superintendent
- Melisa Akers, Director of Special Education
- Natalie Davis, Director of Career & Technical Education
- Katie Fuelling, Director of Instructional Services
- Katie Keith, Supervisor of Early Childhood
- Kurt Loll, Finance Director
- Somer Quinlan, Executive Director of ROOC, Inc.
- Jared Socia, Director of Operations

To: Shawn Petri, Superintendent

From: Melisa Akers, Director of Special Education

Date: August 8th, 2024

Subject: Special Education Department Update

## A Message from our Director, Melisa Akers

A lot of behind the scenes work is occurring within the Special Education department. We are finalizing our PD offerings for the 24-25 school year, filling last minute special education openings in the districts, updating forms and handbooks, and gearing up for the return of our students.

Floors at the CEC have a new coat of wax and the wood floors at the ATC are currently being stripped, sanded, and resurfaced. This has been desperately needed for years so we are excited for this project to be completed. In addition, Ms. Angie's kitchen in her classroom has been remodeled and has a new countertop, sink, cabinets, and appliances. These updates will make teaching life skills to our adult student's so much easier.

We are looking forward to an exciting new school year!

I also want to give a shout-out to Joe Moore, who was recently selected as one of Roscommon County Community Foundation's 40 Under 40 honorees for 2024! They aim to recognize individuals who are making a significant impact through their work, volunteering, and other community-minded contributions. Watch for the announcement of the full group.

## A Message from Joe Moore, School Principal



Another ESY/Summer session is in the books! The last 4 weeks at the CEC were full of fun times, smiles, laughs, and hugs! All of the teachers and classroom paraprofessionals did a magnificent job of making each day engaging and meaningful for the students. A special shout out to Jade Bird who took on the added responsibility of distributing the food and meals to each classroom.



We would like to welcome Leslie Brownfield to our team. Leslie is a retired teacher that started subbing with us last year. She will be taking over Hannah VanCura's SCI classroom once Hannah goes on maternity leave. We are excited to have her and will help to support her in any way possible during her time with us.

We are looking forward to having the full staff back together for the opening day PD on August 19th at the Northern Center in Houghton Lake. All students return for the first day of the 24-25 school year on Thursday, August 22nd.

## **A Message from Brenda Vaughan-Ide, ISD Monitor and Transition Coordinator**

The summer work program for COOR ISD area students with a disability who are connected to MRS has wrapped up. Coordinated by Kerri Smitz and supported by ROOC in the role of employer, the program this year was very successful. We expanded to include North State Park, South State Park, Rifle River, the village of Roscommon and City of Grayling. There were also ancillary sites this year in the West Branch area. These opportunities gave many of our students from COOR and local area schools paid work experiences. Research provides evidence that one of the keys to success in both completing educational goals as well as achieving post school goals is employment experiences.

The special ed leadership team has done a lot of work this summer pulling together information and professional development to provide to local and ISD staff. The new professional learning series menu reflects all of the expected offerings.