

# Special Education/Pupil Services Board Report December 2024

## Teaching and Learning

- Creating Effective Environments
  - For the past few months, a few of our elementary special education teachers have been brainstorming ways to effectively address the disruptive behavior some of our students have been demonstrating. These behaviors have become increasingly intense and often prompt the evacuation of other students from the classroom.

While these behaviors can be modified, they disrupt the learning of others until improvements can be made. Therefore, a self-contained classroom has been created for those students who are unable to demonstrate success in a mainstream or resource setting.

Creating such an environment comes with growing pains. Our Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy services have been temporarily relocated to a less-than-optimal environment through the remainder of the school year. We continue to find ways, and resources, to be sure the students they serve can be successful.

Room assignments, resources and staffing will continue to be our focus as we hope to create efficient environments for the entire Special Education/Pupil Services department for the 2025-2026 school year. Addressing the highest priority of student behaviors was the appropriate first step in this process.

## WI DPI Reporting

- Seclusion and Restraint Reporting
  - I recently submitted the Seclusion and Restraint Report to DPI which was due December 1. As a reminder, each year the Board receives a copy of the report prior to its submission. We continue to educate ourselves as to the best practices to avoid seclusion and restraint. We consistently exercise a variety of techniques and strategies before engaging in either seclusion and/or physical restraint.

## Community Engagement

- Indicator 8 Family Engagement Survey
  - We are participating in the Indicator 8 survey this year. This survey will provide the district with information as to how we can improve the special

education services we provide to our families. It goes beyond the federal requirements and addresses parent/guardian satisfaction with statements such as:

- I am an equal partner with school staff in planning my child's IEP.
- IEP meetings are held at a time and place that meet my needs.
- At IEP meetings, we discuss how accommodations or modifications can help my child.

Such data will allow special education personnel to provide the highest quality customer service in the future.

- Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)
  - We are also participating in the YRBS this school year. The YRBS covers many different areas broadly related to health and wellness. The YRBS focuses on health-related behaviors that contribute to the leading cause of death, disability, and social problems during both adolescence and adulthood. These include many topics, such as: diet and physical activity; alcohol, tobacco and other drug use; sexual activity; access to food and housing; bullying and school safety; anxiety, stress, and suicidality. In addition, the YRBS measures assets--such as a sense of belonging and healthy relationships--which have the power to protect youth from engaging in risk behaviors and help keep them safe, healthy, and successful.

Data from this survey has been used to:

- Describe student health behaviors, risks, and experiences.
- Plan, monitor, and evaluate school health interventions.
- Inform school policies and practices.
- Support health-related policies, legislation, and laws.
- Provide information and support for funding requests.
- Inform teacher professional development.

I have registered our high school students for this survey through DPI's process last week. I have also contacted the YRBS contact person to see if our middle school students can also participate as this information is very useful.

### **Current Timeline per My Contract**

- As of the December Board Meeting, I have worked 50 of the 125 days per my approved contract. I hope to scale back from four day work weeks beginning in January. I am planning to be as efficient as possible while still reserving time to transition the person hired to fill this position. Things have been busy but I continue to enjoy working with the wonderful staff, students and parents of the Tomahawk community.