

Memo

To: Susan Flanagan, Ed. S.
From: Kennedy Strickland-Dixon, Ed. S.
CC: Board of Education
Date: 6/6/2012
Re: Special Education Update

Professional Development

I am pleased to announce that District 89 has its first district-wide book club. The focus of the book club is to read, discuss, and apply materials that address the cultural needs of our students.

The book club met at the District Office on May 21, 2012. As its first selected text, the book club will be reading *White Teachers Diverse Classrooms Creating Inclusive Schools, Building on Students' Diversity, and Providing Educational Equity* by Julie G. Landsman and Chance W. Lewis.

The book club consists of teachers, psychologists, social workers, and administrators. During the first meeting, the committee determined a reading schedule, discussed expectations for the group, and established lead facilitators. Tyra Bolton and Vincent Charleston will serve as the first facilitators. Addressing the cultural needs of students is mandated under the Individual with Disabilities Act (IDEA) as it relates to requirements under Response to Intervention (RTI).

Early Childhood Celebration

The Early Childhood Program at Roosevelt School celebrated its Annual Early Childhood Celebration. The celebration is for students who will be transitioning to kindergarten in the fall. The Early Childhood staff did an excellent job with preparing the students for the celebration. Each student received a back pack with school supplies. Each parent received a messenger bag with a logo that read *Parents are Important in School District 89*. The school supplies and bags for the parents were made possible through an ARRA Grant.