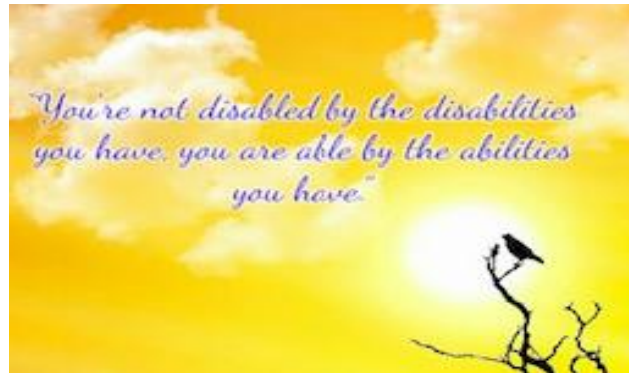


Board Report April 3, 2017
Jill Mattingly, Special Education Director



This school year is rapidly coming to an end. Contracts for the next school year have been signed and we should only be needing three teachers for the special education department. We have been rather lucky in the fact that the turnover rate in special education has remained relatively low. I have met with Dr. Kipp at B.C.C. and am excited about the program they have developed that will allow more people in the community the opportunity to obtain an advanced degree. She is working with several employees from BPS who will hopefully be future teachers in our district. Employees are able to get course credits for some of the real life experiences and training they do in the school setting. Employing people from the community would greatly reduce the turnover rate for our entire school district and help to provide the consistency that our students need.

Over the past month I was very busy moving a lot of heavy boxes filled with books. Sicily Bird at Napi Elementary was kind enough to let me have about 50 boxes of curriculum that had been inventoried to be listed as surplus items. All of these boxes were stored in the upstairs apartment at Napi and were delivered to the special education office, by a very hard working substitute, Marvin Madplume. Once all of the materials were stored over at the sped office, I went through and organized all of the materials by subject and grade level, and all of the materials were redistributed to the special education teachers.

Over the past school year many staff members were trained on how we could get reimbursement from Medicaid for the speech services we provide to students. This was quite an undertaking. All staff members who provide speech services were trained on how to bill Medicaid for these services. Consent forms were signed by parents, students were approved, spreadsheets were created, additional training was given on how to document service times and on how to fill out billing sheets, and finally nine months later we got our first reimbursement dollars. This is such an exciting venture, in knowing that through all of our hard work, we will be bringing additional funds into the special education department.