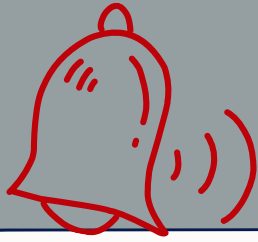


SPECIAL EDUCATION BOARD REPORT

NOVEMBER 2024



STAFF AND PARENT PRESENTATIONS



The Special Education Department is thrilled to share that on the October Inservice Day Unity staff had the incredible opportunity to hear from the inspiring Kate Swenson, author of **Forever Boy** and the creative mind behind the blog **Finding Cooper's Voice**!

Kate's passion for understanding autism and her experiences as a parent resonated deeply with everyone present. She not only took time to speak with the staff but also engaged with interested parents in an evening session. Attendees found her discussions enlightening and appreciated her journey and valuable insights into parenting. The dynamic conversation between Kate and the parents was both engaging and uplifting, fostering a supportive atmosphere for sharing ideas and experiences.

Thank you, Kate, for your inspiring visit and for empowering our community with your knowledge and perspective!

SCHOOL AGED PARENT ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

Last Spring, families of students with disabilities, were asked to participate in a family engagement survey. Unity is excited to share some impressive survey results: 100% of respondents indicated that "School staff incorporates my child's hopes and interests for life after high school into their education program." Parents also expressed strong feelings of partnership in the IEP planning process, with staff actively encouraging them to share information about their family and culture to better support their children's needs at school. Furthermore, parents of students with disabilities believe their children are included in activities alongside their non-disabled peers, and they appreciate the efforts of school staff to foster a sense of belonging within the school community.

Similar to the preschool parent survey, parents of school-aged children are seeking additional activities or strategies to support their child's learning at home. They also expressed a desire for the school to provide information on community services that could assist their child in becoming more independent and effectively advocating for their needs.