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## **Special Services Building Report**

**For: March 8, 2022**

### **Board Meeting**

Submitted by: Maureen Stott,  
Director of Special Services

### **Special Education Activities**

- February 15-19, I attended the National Elementary and Secondary Act or NESEA Convention in New Orleans. It was a fabulous convention with the theme of Reconnect, Renew and Reignite, focusing on bringing educators, students and families back together after the fallout of the COVID-19 Pandemic. A main topic focus was about emotional and mental health of our classroom teachers and building leaders, and how we need to guide with compassion over compliance during this time of reunification. Ne session that I was so lucky to attend, by nationally acclaimed speaker Tara Brown, The Connection Coach, Feelings and Emotions: They aren't Soft Skills...but Hard Science talked in depth about the emotional and psychological toll teaching through the pandemic in a remote format, and that we as an educational community will not be aware of the total emotional cost to our educators and learners for some time. So right now, as re reunite and come together we need to keep in mind that we cannot get to Blooms without Maslow, meaning to achieve higher levels of thinking and academic success. we need to continue focusing on making sure basic needs are met, something this district does and does very well! If we want to continue to increase motivation and engagement, we need to keep encouraging and supporting emotional safety. Below is a link to a sample of Tara Browns platform on emotions and brain development. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0sRgC5QCW1k>

I attended many other sessions on everything from improving poverty school performance, federal based policies from Congress and the Biden administration, Dyslexia, transitioning educators, and finally one of my favorites, How Stress Makes you a Terrible Person, and Why you Should Laugh About It! Thank you for allowing me to attend this amazing learning event!

- The SpEd department began a series of training for Extended Wednesday's also targeted around Social Emotional Learning, and materials that I obtained from the NESEA Convention. We began a workshop called Sending Out an SOS for SEL: Revitalizing Every Lesson With Social Emotional Learning, led by Professor/Author Linda Bone. The workshop will expand through three Extended Wednesdays.
- On March 9, 2022, Chris McCrea will join some of the SpEd team to do a training on Transitional IEP writing. This virtual training will be from 2:00PM-5:00PM and will help all team members that write IEP's for students that are at the high school transitional level write stronger documents to support our learners.
- Now that the COVID mandates have eased up a little we are able to resume some important training and services from OPI. Daren Novic will be conducting a much-needed MANDT training for PCA's that are new to the district this school year or may not have had the training in the past. He has 10 spaces in the class, and I will select the individuals that need the course based on the level of need they have with their student.

