

**Special Education Department**  
**Board Report**  
**March 6, 2019**

The UP SE Conference, held at NMU on February 21st and 22nd, was well attended by our ISD and local district special education staff members. It was a very successful conference and both Thursday and Friday provided very valuable professional development opportunities for the attendees. The presenter on Friday morning, Paula Kluth, discussed the benefits for including students with special needs as much as possible and how we need to look very closely at whether or not we are really providing an inclusive environment for our students. It really was an eye-opening and thought provoking presentation. It would be great if we could get Paul Kluth to present at an ISD-Wide PD event so that all of our local administrators and general education teachers could hear her and the research that supports being an inclusive school.

Marcia Peterson's last day of work is February 28th. We are going to definitely miss Marcia and wish her the best in her retirement. Nicole (Nikki) Garvaglia has been able to come in for a couple of half days for training with Marcia and a full day with Amanda Sanicki, SE Secretary to the Director. March 4th is Nikki's official start day. Although there is much to learn, she is in good hands with Amanda who will be able to assist her on a daily basis until she is able to be fully independent in her job duties. Marcia has also agreed to answer any questions that Nikki has through email and our Early On Coordinator, Cherie Fila, will be a huge help as well.

We had a half day for students in our CI classrooms scheduled for March 6th but have decided to make it a full day of school due to the number of inclement weather days resulting in our students being out of school. Our students thrive on consistency with their routines and we feel that having another disruption would not be conducive to their learning. We are hoping that we are over the inclement weather days but know that we often have some late winter/early spring storms that cause us to cancel school so this also provides additional hours in case we need to make up any student contact time.

We just received a letter of intent to retire, at the end of this school year, from Sharon Davis, School Social Worker. This is Sharon's 15th year at the our ISD. She has worked in both Forest Park and West Iron County Schools during her years at the ISD. We thank Sharon for her years of service with the ISD and wish her well in her retirement.