Lincolnshire-Prairie View School District 103

Memo

To: Board of Education
From: Dr. Gina Finaldi
CC: Dr. Scott Warren
Date: December 5, 2024
Re: Student Services Executive Summary

- **Early Childhood Registration Update-**
  We launched open registration for EC on December 1st, which is the earliest we have ever opened registration (and before some of our local preschools and daycares). As of 12/5, we have 13 returning EC students registered for next year and we are still waiting to hear from 12 returning families. A reminder email will be sent out this week to our returning families. We have had 3 new families registered so far. We will be doing the following as next steps:
  - Advertise on all 4 Facebook profiles for D103
  - Send the information directly to the families who were on our waitlist from last year
  - Advertise on the village's electronic sign through the end of the month

- **Update on Supervision for Occupational Therapist at Half Day School**-
  Emily Moran (our new occupational therapist at Half Day) officially passed her licensure exam and is now fully credentialed and no longer needs supervision. The supervision being provided by Sue Larson was discontinued prior to the Thanksgiving break. Congratulations to Emily!

- **MTSS Platform Demos**-
  On December 4th, the Curriculum & Instruction/Student Services admin team participated in two different demos to take a deeper dive into comprehensive MTSS platforms that are available for us to consider. Currently, we use Embrace MTSS, which is essentially a warehouse for intervention data, but all of that data must be manually entered and it does not interface or sync with other systems. The two platforms that were presented were Branching Minds and Panorama MTSS. The admin team unanimously felt that Branching Minds had many more powerful and robust features, including the ability to sync with other platforms such as PowerSchool, NWEA MAP, Panorama SEL,

Aimsweb, and many others, and it would provide us with district data at-a-glance as well as early warning signs for attendance, behavior, SEL, Reading, Math, Writing, etc. and over time, it will provide historical data for individual students. This would allow us to streamline our data systems and progress monitoring data would update automatically through a nightly sync. We will be looking further into Branching Minds and what it could offer the district, possibly for a rollout next school year at the earliest. We were given sandbox (demo) sites to trial the platform from the viewpoint of a teacher and administrator. If we were to adopt Branching Minds, we would be able to eliminate Embrace MTSS at a minimum (Embrace MTSS is an add-on to Embrace IEP/504). We would continue to use Embrace for IEPs and 504s only as it works very well for us so there is no need to change that. We will continue to explore this potential option and provide updates on our work.

- **Parent Support Group**-
  A couple parents of students in the Guided program are partnering to start a new parent support group for children who receive special education services in D103 and their first meeting will be on December 6th. This is open to any district parent of a student with an IEP who is looking for networking, support, ideas, or playdates for their child.

- **PUNS Training**-
  Per Public Act 103-0504, our district will work with IDHS and ISBE to ensure that all students with disabilities and the parents or guardians of those students are informed about the PUNS database, including how to enroll for registration in the PUNS database and who they can contact for information about the database and registration process. PUNS is a statewide database that records information about individuals with developmental disabilities who are planning for or seeking services (e.g., community integrated living arrangements, home-based supports, child group homes). The state uses the data to select individuals for services as funding becomes available. We have designated staff at each building to serve as the district representatives for this.

- **Special Education Associate Update** -
  - **Daniel Wright** has 3 vacancies (1 in Guided, 1 in IIP, and 1 for 6th grade gen ed support). The applicant pool is still very dry right now.
  - **Half Day** has 1 special ed associate vacancy to fill. There have been no qualified candidates applying to date.
  - **Sprague** was fully staffed for special ed associates, but there is a recent need for an associate for a new student with an IEP to support within the general education setting, which has created a vacancy. This vacancy has just been posted.