

Special Education/Pupil Services School Board Report
December 12, 2017

It has been a very productive month. With our unexpected elementary special education resignation, Penny Antell and I have been quite busy searching for qualified candidates and interviewing. We are excited to bring to the board a licensed teacher that interviewed extremely well and has a solid reading background. Amber Troutman will be joining our Tomahawk Elementary team on December 18th.

Our recent paraprofessional hires have begun their new positions and the transitions are coming along fairly smoothly. We still need to cover some hours with students at the end of the day and hope to fill those positions with qualified candidates soon. An interesting note is that with the change in licensing for a substitute teacher to an associate's degree, which will now draw from the pool of qualified candidates for the "highly qualified" candidates for special education paraprofessionals.

On December 6, 2017 the special education paraprofessionals had the opportunity to attend the early release training/collaboration. They participated in the follow up discussion on the Peaceful Warrior Training with Mike DeBels and Police Chief Al Elvins. Time was also given to collaborate on student coverage and strategies to use when working with specific students. This time was greatly appreciated, as the special education team is extremely limited in collaboration time due to the demands of the positions.

The Special Education Department has been working with Central Office in gathering accurate data from Skyward, SEEDS, and the new DPI data system. There are errors with the systems communicating with each other; however, these are being resolved. The state has pushed back the final date for data entry due to the need to resolve the system issues.

Students and staff are getting into the holiday spirit with all of the upcoming programs! With the program performances there are class schedule changes, student schedule changes, and staff schedule changes. We are making those adjustments and it will be wonderful! Please join our students for their performances if you are able.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katherine Strong
Dir. Sp. Ed./Pupil Services