

School Board Meeting:

February 23, 2009

Subject: Relocation of District Special Education Programs

Presenter: **Judy Coley**

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:

Report only.

DESCRIPTION:

As our Administrative Team has been working on staff cuts and program needs, I was asked to look at district self-contained programs and their locations. Northwinds currently houses two self-contained programs, in rooms that were specifically designed for those two programs. In addition, they have a large population of students with a diagnosis of Autism, or Autism Spectrum Disorder, who require specialized programming. The two self-contained programs are Level IV EBD and Severe/Profound DCD. Tatanka houses the self-contained Autism program. Discovery and Parkside do not have self-contained programs currently, but Parkside has housed the DCD program in past years. Montrose and Hanover do not have self-contained programs due to the need to centralize self-contained programs.

IDEA requires that all special education students are to be educated in the least restrictive environment to the degree possible. This means that all of the students from these programs are in mainstream classrooms for some portion of their day, with or without paraprofessional support. This has put enormous strain and stress on the general education teachers at Northwinds.

Since Parkside does have available space, Shane Thielke, Michelle Robinson, Gail Feneis and I, met several times to make a decision about moving one of the programs out of Northwinds to Parkside. After a great deal of discussion and considerations for each building and program, it was decided that we will move the Severe/Profound DCD program to Parkside for the 2009-10 school year.