

**Special Education Department
Board Report
November 13, 2019**

We had a great turn out for the UP Fall Educator Conference in Marquette on October 10 and 11. Tricia was on the planning committee. There were around 800 participants that attended on Friday. The committee has begun working on planning for the conference in the fall of October 2020. The dates for the conference will be October 8-9 of 2020.

We provided Handle with Care Training for all of our LEAs during the month of October. Lisa Anderson also provided training for the paraprofessionals from our local school districts on Monday, October 28, at Forest Park School. Administrators from both counties sent staff to the training.

The SE Department hosted a training from Michigan Alliance for Families on the IEP Process for local parents on the evening of November 4th. Lisa and Tricia both attended the training that went from 4:00-8:30 p.m. The presenter was Sandee Koski who works for Michigan Alliance for Families. Michigan Alliance for Families is funded by MDE and is an organization that supports parents in understanding their rights under IDEA.

We held our first DIISD General Supervision Team meeting on October 30th. Lisa Anderson, Tricia, and Carol Bergquist drafted our General Supervision Monitoring Interview Form and discussed our plan the initial GSS meeting with Breitung Township Schools' Administrative team on November 8th.

Tricia has been exploring a move to PowerSchool from Illuminate for all of our special education needs. A transition to PowerSchool would make our work more streamlined, improve the overall data that is reported to MSDS, allow for better documentation of accommodations provided by general education teachers, and also allow parents to access their child's IEP electronically. She has met with Darren, Wendy, and Jen to discuss this. If we do move to PowerSchool, we will need to look at contracting with a Medicaid Billing Agent as well due to PowerSchool not having the same capabilities as Illuminate. We have been looking into CompuClaim for our Medicaid needs. Currently, we are still in the exploring stages and will be discussing the options with our LEA superintendents soon.

We are requesting permission for overnight travel and expense for our four School Social Workers and SE Supervisor to attend a two-day training in Northeast, Wisconsin. Ross Greene is the presenter. We tried to have the staff attend in December but the training filled up quickly so they are hoping to get into the newly scheduled training in April. The venue has not been set but the dates for the training are April 15 and 16, 2020.