

## **MARESA SEPAC MINUTES**

January 6, 2021 – 6:30 pm to 8:00pm

**THOSE PRESENT :** Julie Nyman, Julie Shaw, Theresa King, Lora Kinnunen, Tammy Nyen, Sundi Taylor, Melissa Berube, Collin Jenkins

**Approval of Agenda:** Julie Nyman,

**Approval of Minutes:** Lora Kinnunen, Julie Nyman

### **Reports:**

- ❖ Board Report from Julie Shaw/Tammy:
  - Approved a new Director of Early Childhood position, starting July 1, 2021. Lyndsay Carey has been hired for this position
- ❖ MARESA Report
  - Special Education update to the MARESA Board of Education (January 2021)
    - Early-on creating kits for families, with excess funds since there are no playgroups with COVID.
  - COVID-19 Updates
    - Information from Governor
      - Phase 1B starts next week for vaccinations in lower Michigan, the Marquette & Alger Counties should start around January 18
      - Includes adults over age 65
      - Need more days of data before deciding if restrictions can be lessened on the 15th
    - Proposed/Anticipated vaccination schedule for Educators after January 18
  - Transition Classrooms
    - Transition 1A and 1B are both at St. Michael's church now
    - Transition 2 is still located within the MARESA building

### **Discussion Items:**

- ❖ Upcoming Trainings for parents/families (shared by Barb Potts)
  - Sibshops
    - [Flyer](#)
    - program for brothers and sisters of children with special health and development needs
    - \$30
    - 6 sessions at different times, depending upon age group
    - Register [here](#)
  - Remote Learning Strategies
    - [PDF Document](#)
    - [Video](#)
- ❖ Addressing Foregone Learning due to COVID
  - What are Recovery Services?

- How are they different from “regular” services? They are not mandated by the state. Recovery services are available to aid in the education process if students are struggling with the covid shut downs. Determining if the student requires Recovery Services -look at IEP goals, regression, benchmark assessment scores, to determine the student needs. Recovery services are intended to be short term services. If the student’s needs change dramatically, then amending the IEP is encouraged to help the student in the most impactful way.
- How do IEP teams decide the best course of action?
  - [Infographic](#)
- Where should parents go if they have questions?
  - Contact your child’s case manager
  - Can also contact the Special Education Coordinator for your district
- ❖ Spring Assessments
  - On track right now
  - State has requested another waiver from the federal government
- ❖ Future of SEPAC
  - Present Information
  - Gather information and prepare for parents
  - Information hub, offering information & trainings for parents.
    - Create a network to help and support parents & families.
    - SEPAC hotline suggestion, a lot of room to grow as a group.
    - Maybe formal training for SEPAC members, to give you tools to help others
    - Surrogate parents, Colin enjoys helping 2 students right now. This will be something MARESA & SEPAC will expand upon.
- ❖ Future Meeting Topics
  - SAIL presentation
  - Design another letter for districts to share with parents? (suggested by a local SE Coordinator)
  - What do parents need now? What can SEPAC provide? Topics Virtual learning or mental health, anxiety. There is a Mental Health Tool kit being created.
  - Move to bi-monthly meetings? Yes
  - Dad training - Colin is sending it out via e-mail
- ❖ Playground Update
  - Grant was approved!
    - Waiting for Grant agreement in May. Starting to look for a consultant, plan to start community forums and get some community engagement on this project.
  - [Website](#) is live and accepting donations
  - Next steps discussed last night...
    - Volunteer opportunities in the future

❖ Other items

## Additional Topics

- ❖ Meetings will be on the first Wednesday of the month, March, 3, 2021
  - Next meeting: