

**Central Area Advisory
General Meeting @ Bair Middle School
Nov. 13, 2014**

Welcome – 6:30 pm by Mr. McDermott, Principal, and by Alicia (Allie) Walford. We were warmly welcomed by the show band. Pledge of Allegiance was led by student Tatianna Battle and teacher Daniel Buchwald spoke about Relay for Life.

Minutes

Minutes from the October meeting were unavailable. They will be approved at the December 11th morning meeting at Stranahan HS.

Presentation by Silver Ridge Buddies and Ms. Ward

Students and staff presented songs and heartwarming messages about the inclusion program at Silver Ridge. They really stressed that the program changes everyone involved for the better. Inclusion means finding out that we are more alike than different.

Presentation by Barbara Krakower, Florida Inclusion Network

Ms. Krakower has a power point presentation defining inclusion and stressed that best practices that work well for students with varying abilities will also work well with general education students. Parents need to be familiar with the Florida State Statute 1003.57(a)(a)4(f).

Some highlight:

- Inclusion is* : students with disabilities and without disabilities working together.
- : ongoing assessments
- : not caught up in labels (labels are not children)
- Inclusion is not* : all students all day – some need specific therapies.
- : sacrificing general education students – no findings that inclusion holds back other students.
- : dumping children into a classroom without the necessary support for both students and teachers.

Ms. Krakower also discussed IEP's (Individual Education Plans). They should indicate levels of support. IEP's should provide a path from where the student is now to where they should be in a year. Accommodations and modifications are a promise and require commitment from everyone in the school. IEP's require involvement from parents and staff, time, support, and resources. Teachers also need time for professional learning and collaboration with support staff.

Area Chair Report – Alicia Walford

Ms. Walford went over the goals and objectives of the CAAC (Central Area Advisory Council). These were discussed in small groups. Approval was voted to send these on to the DAC.

There is lots going on with the District – many of the members are spread thin. Everyone is encouraged to bring friends to the next meeting as we continue to try to fill all the positions.

Communication and timely emails are stressed so that we can continue to stay in touch.

By-Law Committee

A draft of the bylaws was circulated among the SAF chairs and principals. Dawn Aufenanger explained the changes made so CAAC was in compliance. She also explained the process the committee used to fine tune the bylaws. A motion was made to accept the bylaws by Tracy Kingsley, seconded by Susan Sanderson. Motion passed. It was mentioned that the by law can be amended at any future meeting as the kinks get worked out of them.

Motions

Ms. Walford brought forth the following motion: Motion to extend the school calendar year by 10 days for the position of an ESE Specialist. **See attached motion.** Susan Sanderson made a motion to approve the motion (set forth above) as read by Ms. Walford and seconded by Valerie Farinas and passed unanimously by the general membership present.

Presentation on Best Buddies Program at cypress Bay H.S.

Miss Hannah Levinson and Miss Gabby, VP and Treasurer of Best Buddies program at Cypress Bay H.S., respectively, spoke on the mission, purpose and benefits of the Best Buddies program at Cypress Bay and in general. The young ladies spoke about how the Best Buddies program has impacted their lives. Hannah and Gabby are instrumental in starting Best Buddies programs at West Broward middle schools and are role models for their peers.

General Discussions and Announcements

A commitment was made to have a phone bridge available at the next meeting. Steering committee members will also look into online meeting availability.

General membership was asked what they would like the structure and function of the CAAC to look like. Suggestions were as follows:

- Adhere strictly to the agenda
- Have break-out sessions with relevant and on-point issues and topics
- Presentations on and disseminated via digital media – no live presenters at meetings
- Want more of a “working meeting” to address central area problems
- Use December general holiday meeting to get ideas for topics and issues for the new year.

Adjournment – 9:15 PM

Next Steering Meeting / Next General Meeting is December 11 at 9 am at Stranahan HS.