



**Benton-Stearns Education District**

**Special Education Advisory Council**

**Agenda**

**February 24, 2020**

**6:00-7:30**

1. Introductions
2. Guests-Luke Hartog and Val Larkin from Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS)
  - a. A presentation regarding services and supports provided to students and families from VRS. Followed by a question and answer session. Luke and Val shared information about the process for accessing services from a VRS counselor. Each high school in our area has a counselor assigned to work with the student, family and school team, beginning in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Typically, a VRS counselor becomes involved during the junior year of high school.
  - b. <https://mn.gov/deed/job-seekers/disabilities/> (VRS Website)
  - c. An additional website that shares information from the federal level was also shared. <http://www.wintac.org/>
3. District News and Updates-Alicia Jepsen, Executive Director shared information on the following District activities.
  - a. Due Process Nights for Staff March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>-Special Education licensed staff can work on due process on one of these two nights offered in Sartell or Rocori during the month of March.
  - b. Facility Updates-The Education District continues to explore options to meet the growing need of our member districts to provide a more restrictive placement (Setting IV) which is currently provided at the Voyagers school in Sauk Rapids.
  - c. MDE Monitoring Year-We continue with our monitoring of compliance and programs. MDE will be doing a visit to each district during the week of March 16<sup>th</sup>. A final letter of findings and any need for corrective action will be provided later in the spring.
  - d. Child Count 2019-Two child count summary documents were provided showing child count numbers in each district for 2019. These numbers represent resident students who are receiving special education services on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.
  - e. MASE Day at The Capital/PACER Day at The Capital-March 5, 2020-This is the day that Special Education Directors will be visiting with our legislators to tell our

story about special education. It is also the PACER day at the capital. Parents are welcome to also sign up to meet with legislators.

- f. Prior Written Notice Change-Alicia shared a change in the language on the prior written notice document that occurred in the fall, following an MDE workgroup to consider language changes. Parents provided feedback on the 3 options that are now provided.
4. Resources-Information was shared from the following resources or activities in our communities.
    - a. Project Challenge-Community Ed St. Cloud  
<https://isd742.ce.eleyo.com/courses/category/60/project-challenge>
    - b. Ridgewater College-Occupational Skills Program in Wilmar  
<https://ridgewater.edu/academics/areas-of-study/occupational-skills/>
    - c. ARISE-A Recreational Inclusive Support Endeavor <https://www.isd742.org/Page/596>
    - d. Dance for All-at the Paramount <https://paramountarts.org/dance-for-all/>
    - e. Hope Kids <https://www.hopekids.org/>
  5. Celebrations and Challenges-Parents shared celebrations of their student's success!
  6. Meeting Schedule for 2019-20
    - a. Next Meetings: April 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 at the BSED Main Office in Sartell.