



**Benton-Stearns Education District**

**Special Education Advisory Council**

**Agenda**

**October 26, 2020**

**6:00-7:30**

**Join via Zoom**

1. Introductions-A small group of participants were present tonight for our meeting. We had staff representation from Benton Stearns, and parent representation from Sartell-St. Stephen, Sauk Rapids-Rice, Holdingford, Kimball and Foley.
2. District News and Updates
  - a. Staff Update-Executive Director, Alicia Jepsen shared that Karleen Cox, at teacher at the Voyager's program passed away over the weekend. She will be missed greatly by all staff and students.
  - b. Foley and Rocori-New Supervisor, Dawn Gent is the new Supervisor supporting these two districts this year.
  - c. Setting IV Facility Expansion
    - i. Pioneers and ASD Programs in Sartell- Alicia shared information about the program expansion to the Sartell facility, where the K-5 program (Pioneers) and the ASD program moved over the summer. There are 4 classrooms currently located in this building, with room for expansion in the future.
    - ii. The New Frontiers 18-21 program and Voyagers 6-12 program are housed at the Sauk Rapids location. We currently have 7 classrooms/sections located in this building.
  - d. School Updates/Distance Learning and Hybrid Models-Alicia shared the current learning models that are being implemented at Benton Stearns and our 6 member districts at this time. This is a fluid situation and updates occur and change weekly depending on the situation in each district.
3. Resources – The following resources were shared with parents.
  - a. MDE Resources for Parents-This is the COVID site with multiple resources for students and parents.
    - i. <https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/health/covid19/supstucovid19/>
  - b. Mental Health Supports During COVID-These are resources for mental health supports through MDH.

- i. <https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/communities/mentalhealth/mwbcovid19.pdf>
  - c. Resources for Parents/Guardians in Benton and Stearns County-Link to our website:
    - i. <https://www.bentonstearns.k12.mn.us/resources>
  - d. Disability Law Center-How to Vote Resources
    - i. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CeqLYGS7uh8>
- 4. Celebrations and Challenges-Participants had the opportunity to share the challenges and celebrations they have had during distance learning in the Spring and how this Fall is going for their student.
  - a. There was a common theme of distance learning being a challenge for many students in the Spring, but for those in distance learning this fall it is going better, with some challenges needing to be worked through.
- 5. Meeting Schedule for 2020-2021
  - a. Next Meetings: February 22<sup>nd</sup>, April 12th
  - b. Representation Needed From: Rocori
- 6. Other Topics/Needs-
  - a. Parent shared ideas of topics and information that they are wanting in the future.
    - i. Learning more about Executive Functioning and strategies to support students.
    - ii. Information about dyslexia is also a topic of interest. Learning more about Barton/structured literacy approaches.
    - iii. Finding more resources to support reading intervention is also an area of interest.
    - iv. Information on Sensory Processing
    - v. Managing hybrid and distance learning.