

Report of the Special Services Director

In 2016 we said good bye to some of our veteran special educators including Mary Hale, Jacqueline Driscoll, Dr. Brenda Fabrizio, and Sandra Roy who retired or moved on to great professional opportunities. We thank them for their years of service and dedication to our students. This gave us an unanticipated opportunity to welcomed educators Jennifer Scott and Joanne Hernon, special education teachers, Natalie Klopman, part-time school psychologist, and several para-educators.

We continue to meet the NH Department of Education compliance reviews. NHDOE has reviewed the required information and determined that the Fremont School District meets the requirements and purposes under IDEA based on their established criteria. Again the annual NH Department of Education compliance reports were submitted in a timely manner. NHDOE provided notice that the district has met Indicator 11 requirements for Timeliness of Initial Evaluation. NHDOE Post-School Outcome Surveys were sent out again this year. This survey assesses how students are doing after leaving high school and is valuable information. We appreciate the feedback.

In April 2016, the NHDOE special education parent involvement survey was administered again. We appreciate the responses from the parents who took the time in their busy days to complete this survey and look forward to receiving the results from the NHDOE. We listen to the information parents share with us.

In response to the School Board's request to consider starting a special education partnership group, we surveyed parents at the Ellis Elementary School's Community Fair in to determine which types of support parents would be most interested in participating. The responses from the survey indicated that parents were interested in evening workshops on a variety of topics. We kicked off this initiative on October 25th with a presentation on Growth Mindset by school psychologist, Natalie Klopman. Followed by a workshop on Social Thinking presented by our speech-language pathologist, Bryn Hazelwood, on November 15th. Please look for posting for future workshops in 2017.

As providing students an education in the least restrictive setting is a priority for us, we use the IDEA Grant to provide services and trainings that allow to the maximum extent appropriate for our students to stay in their neighborhood schools of Ellis Elementary School and Sanborn Regional High School. Keeping identified children in their neighborhood school, among their friends and close to their families can have a significant, positive long-term effect on their quality of life and future in society. It also enriches the school environment with a diversity of learners and learning types.

As always it is pleasure to serve the students and the community of Fremont.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa McKeon