

Pottsgrove School District

Community Budget Task Force Meeting Minutes

Name of Sub-Committee: Special Education & Alternative Education

Date of Meeting: February 25, 2011

Attending: Ann Myers, Elaine Armstrong, Nancy Geigus, Wendy Hasara, Maryann Johnson, Missy Klaus, Jill Ludy, Michelle MacLuckie, Ed Nugent, Liz Rakoff, Brianna Robinson, Jamie Slack, Jennifer Snyder, Julie Farris, John Robinson, Joe Zlomek

Topics Discussed:

- Introductions
- Defined context, purpose and proposed outcome for committee
- Norms and agenda explained
- Defined budget concerns and planning for current and future budget situation.
- Explained the regulations of Special Education
- Explained how students enter into Special Education Services
- Detailed breakdown of the current budget and requested budget amounts for 2011-2012 school year.
- Defined the services Special Education Students can receive
- Explained ACCESS and funds associated with that money
- Defined Alternative Education and how placements are chosen for various students/circumstances
- Defined benefits of Pottsgrove's Twilight Program
- Defined pros/cons of decisions to bring students back from out of district placements
- Individual reflection to review thoughts/questions "I think"
- Small group discussion to complete "We think"
- Groups reported out

Committee members asked for additional information on:

(Some of these questions were answered during the session, bold questions remain to be answered)

- **What is the cost of going through Due Process?**
- What determines when/where/why/how long students get placed in alternative placements?
- **What is the average cost of a Psychological Evaluation?**
- If a student is expelled, does the district still pay for the student to be educated or it is the family's responsibility?
- **What can the ACCESS funds be spent on?**
- Who initiates the evaluation process?
- **What is the percentage of students at the elementary vs. secondary level enrolled in Special Education?**
- Is there a cap on the amount of money the district can spend to educate students?

Outcomes from the meeting:

Based on presented information, **the team** was asked to bring recommendations for budget savings along with the ramifications that come along with cuts to the next meeting. We were asked to consider current budget as well as future planning.

Ann Myers was asked to bring a list of special education cuts that are possible given the required Special Education Regulations.

Next meeting date: Tuesday, March 15, 2011