

School District of Bayfield

Board Report

Sandra J. Raspotnik, Director of Pupil Services/Special Education

December 6, 2010

The academic data retreats have been completed. We are a little over half completed on the School Climate and Special Education data retreats. December 13th is scheduled to complete both of them. The information is being used for the writing of the Safe School/Healthy Student Grant. We will be discussing how the information is going to be distributed and used.

Currently we have 102 students in Special Education and with 504 plans. During the month of November we held 18 IEP/504 meetings. We have nine new referrals that we are processing.

I will be attending a conference on the SMARTT program. This is a program through the Department of Public Instruction which assists schools in getting highly qualified teachers. We have applied for a \$15,000 grant which will be used to provide a person who is registered for the program to finish their teaching certification in certain areas such as Special Education. Currently, Tom Steckling is currently enrolled in this program.

There will be a change in the method a student is placed in the Severe Learning Disability category. Currently we use what is called a discrepancy model. A student is evaluated for their academic achievement and their ability and if there is a large enough difference between the two, and other specific concerns are present, the student would be considered to have a learning impairment. The new process is being called Response to Instruction or Interventions (RTI). This is a new law which was just signed on December 1, 2010. The schools in Wisconsin have 3 years to implement the program. There are currently pieces of RTI in place, but there needs to be a clear and precise plan in place by December 1, 2013. What truly makes this an interesting venture is that RTI is considered a regular education initiative which will be used for the determining of students placed in Special Education. There will be much more to come as this process is examined and put into place.

The PowerPoints from the Gang Task Force information meetings are posted on the school website.

The concerns that I have heard from staff are their desire to pursue a police liaison officer at the school. The other concern was to look at some type of alternative education program in the high school.