

MCCPTA Special Education Committee December 2019 Board Report

To: MCCPTA Board

From: Julie Reiley, MCCPTA Special Education Committee Chair

Cc: Rachel Tate; Maria Blaeuer

Date: December 2019

This report incorporates the October 2019 report.

I am have been invited to participate in meetings with Pete Cevenini and Safe Tech regarding Regulation COG-RA, personal mobile devices for students. My input is to hopefully ensure students with special needs have full access to accommodations available on personal mobile devices, and that access to them is not hampered in anyway, nor that IEP teams are required to (or believe they are required to) go through additional procedures inconsistent with IDEA, to provide those accommodations.

At the December Board meeting, I will resign from my position as chair, and Maria Blaeuer will be nominated. Rachel Tate will continue as vice-chair, and I will be a member. However, because Rachel is recovering from a significant health issue, I will remain as an acting vice-chair to support Maria until Rachel can resume her duties.

I will set up a meeting with myself, Maria and Kevin Lowndes.

Items incorporated from the October 2019 report.

- **Issues of Concern in Special Education**

- Provision of para-professional support in general education classes
- Sufficient co-taught classes
 - Common concern – schools that allocate support based upon current staffing instead of students' needs
 - Per IDEA, all IEPs must provide the support actually needed by the student
 - If the school needs to request extra staffing from central office, they are obligated to do so.
- Accommodations, e.g., extended time, for mock SAT and ACT tests at all high schools
- Roll out of new Dyslexia intervention – Orton-Gillingham – and training of staff
- Overly long bus rides
- Lack of sufficient continuum of placements/ programs

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- This refers in part, but not exclusively, to the loss of the secondary learning centers
- BOE member Rebecca Smondrowski has granted a parent advocate request to conduct a survey
- Access to iPhones for instructional use
- Access extracurricular programs and activities
- Data privacy

Planning Annual MCCPTA Special Education Committee Awards

We are in the process of soliciting volunteers for the 2020 award ceremony.

For the 2020 ceremony, I highly recommend:

1. **Forming a multi-member award ceremony committee in the early fall**, with a ceremony chair (this could be the special education committee chair), and three or more members who are assigned specific responsibilities;
2. Specifically stating on the nomination form that submissions by any single person are limited to one nomination per category (or stating that under special circumstances, permission may be given to submit more than one nomination per category, but it must be requested and received in advance for the additional submissions to be processed);
3. Specifically stating on the nomination form that individuals must be nominated by a third party (*i.e.*, you can't nominate yourself);
4. No longer *ensuring* that everyone receives at least an HM; and
5. Specifically stating on the form (and in the emails soliciting nominations) that the top half of the form requesting the contact details, *including the nominee's email address*, **must** be filled out in order for the nomination to be accepted and processed.

Parent Outreach / Support

We have continued to support parents who contact us.

Local PTA/PTSAs Special Education Chairs

We need to continue to fill special education committee positions on local PTAs.

Quarterly Meeting with Kevin Lowndes, Associate Superintendent for Special Education

We will continue quarterly meetings with Kevin Lowndes, Assoc. Super. for Special Education.