

Hampton Elementary School

Special Education

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Monthly Board of Education Update

December 15, 2021

(written December 8, 2021)

Settling in:

My first month with Hampton Elementary School has been filled with becoming acquainted with the school, the staff, and the students. The staff have warmly welcomed me and have assisted me in the transition into the position. I have met weekly with Sam and Frank in person, have had frequent email conversations with Sally and have had regular conversations with Jim Shifrin (resource room teacher) and Diane Holmes (speech and language pathologist) about our students, their assignments and their needs. I have attended several PPT's which have assisted me in becoming familiar with Hampton Elementary School students and parents. The personal attention the staff are able to provide to our students is evident in the connection the parents express in these meetings.

ESSER Special Education Recovery Activities Grant:

Hampton Elementary School was eligible to apply for two ESSER special education grants, an initial grant for \$30,000 and additional grant for \$25,000. Both grants are intended to assist school districts with addressing delayed, interrupted, suspended or inaccessible IEP supports and services for students with IEPs in the school district. These funds can also be used to provide students with IEP supports and services to remediate skills and/or address lack of progress due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Being new to the Hampton School District, I sought support from Sam Roberson, Frank Olah and Jim Shifrin to identify the needs of the district, while working with Sally to assure our request met the appropriate requirements. Below are the 4 areas of need identified by the team:

1.) Conduct/complete evaluations that were unable to be completed due to Covid 19-pandemic social distancing and masking requirements. (\$10,000)

2.) Increase Capacity for qualified individuals to deliver specialized instruction and related services related to recovery efforts for students with disabilities via professional development. (Professional Development \$10,000)

3.) Paraprofessional Salaries for providing IEP services to remediate skills and/or lack of progress due to Covid 19 pandemic (\$15,000).

4) Instructional Salaries and Contract Services for providing IEP services to remediate skills and/or lack of progress due to Covid 19 pandemic (\$20,000)

I have completed the initial process to request the funds, which has made it through the initial approval process. I will keep you updated on the progress of the approval process and if/when money is granted. We are hopeful these grants will offset unanticipated costs to assist our students in making expected gains through this school year.

Upcoming Plans:

Becoming familiar with the school and the special education needs will be my primary focus in the upcoming month. Specifically, I will be working on the following:

- Becoming more familiar with each student's IEP, how the IEP is being implemented and the support required to ensure our students are making growth in their identified areas of need.
- Meeting our paraprofessional staff individually and looking deeper into their schedules and assignments to ensure we are using our supports appropriately.
- Review our current and anticipated needs, including budget implications to ensure we are fiscally responsible in our spending for the upcoming school year.