



## PSE Grassroots Minutes

November 3, 2021

- **Updates**

- These minutes are fluid and are accurate as of this moment in time.
- Sometimes things discussed can change
- All minutes and meeting agendas will be posted on the PSE Grassroots page on the PFT Website

[\(https://pft400.com/grassroots/special-education-grassroots-pse/\)](https://pft400.com/grassroots/special-education-grassroots-pse/)

- **Additional Support**

- How can we get more support for classrooms that have only one paraprofessional, but need two?
  - Conversation with the program officer: Is there a need [for an additional para] based on a propensity of support levels in your classroom and then apply the CBA to your classroom?
  - Look at other supports available in your building and discuss with program officer on a case-by-case basis.
  - Suggestion from another teacher to schedule electives to overlap with electives from other regional classrooms so paras could be shared between classrooms.
  - Suggestion from another teacher to ask if other classrooms with paras have times in the day when they aren't needed in their assigned class and could go and help in the other classroom
- Some schools have openings for paraprofessionals. How are we recruiting people to support our kids?
  - Virtual job fair in October to add additional paraprofessionals.

- On-the-spot interviews on Nov. 4, 2021, at a job fair at the Board of Education.
  - HR is contacting universities to try to get staff
  - Mindy asked if there is a way to waive the residency requirement for paras to try to get more applicants
    - Nina stated no one on the board was interested in entertaining this idea when it was brought up previously
  - Another contract was added for Personal Care Assistants last month
  - On our way to closing the gap in filling those open positions
  - Amy is open to hearing suggestions from the union for filling the open positions
- Revisit: There are reports of Special Education Teachers being pulled for coverage. When and how can you say no?
  - Amy drafted a document and sent to Ms. Jenkins for approval to send out to assistant superintendents regarding this. Updates forthcoming. The information was shared with Assistant Sups and Principals regarding the impact this has regarding delivery of FAPE
  - Nina stated when there is an emergency, we can all pitch in to make the boat float. When an administrator directs you to do this, you can say you are going to do it because you do not want to be insubordinate but also say that you will contact the union and file a grievance after. You should not be missing time with your students to cover other classes.
- **Emotional Support**
  - How can we get more professional development for students with behavioral needs?
    - Amy stated that this is always on her to do list and she will push it up the list and agrees this is important

- Question asked about the full day PD at the end of the semester. Amy is open to hearing ideas for suggested topics and recommended we keep a list of things we'd like to see for PD.
  - Resources from the mental health side that parents could access
  - A teacher suggested PD for teaching strategies that could be tried with students who have emotional support needs or to provide a checklist of helpful strategies teachers can try.
  - A teacher suggested training on ways to approach students with emotional support needs (also helpful for gen ed teachers)
- How can we better run a Learning Support classroom with students that have severe emotional support needs?
  - A teacher expressed concern that students are losing minutes of education due to the amount of behavioral needs. How do you run the LS and ES classrooms together and do it effectively? A token economy was suggested which the teacher is open to.
    - Program Officers can connect staff to System123 or our behavior team to help support building token economies.
- **Any Questions?**
  - Please send to Brittany in advance, so Mindy has time to review and come with answers for us.

### **Looking ahead to December:**

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 4:30PM.

Send any questions/comments/concerns to Brittany Shoup at [brittanyfmccann@yahoo.com](mailto:brittanyfmccann@yahoo.com) or 412-760-9644

<b>Month</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>9-1-21</b>	<b>Zoom</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>10-6-21</b>	<b>Zoom</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>11-3-21</b>	<b>Zoom</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>12-1-21</b>	<b>Zoom</b>
<b>January</b>	<b>1-5-22</b>	<b>Zoom</b>
<b>February</b>	<b>2-2-22</b>	<b>Zoom</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>3-2-22</b>	<b>Zoom</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>4-6-22</b>	<b>Zoom</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>5-4-22</b>	<b>Zoom</b>

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