

A LOOK AT SPECIAL ED MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED AT CENTENNIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING:
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

Centennial Special Education Alliance hosts a Facebook PAGE where we share resources and events. We additionally host a family discussion page. If you have thoughts or questions and want to find other parents in similar circumstances, please reach out!



REACH HIGHER by National Geographic

Board agenda, Section 6.7D seeks to Approve the six-year renewal with Cengage Learning of Reach Higher by National Geographic; district cost not to exceed \$151,140.00.

According to the website, "Reach Higher guides students to learn English, learn about the world, and learn about themselves through authentic content with a global perspective. Elementary students develop the academic language skills and content knowledge they need to get an education in English."

According to the website, it includes

- Cross-curricular, six-level program showcases original fiction, science, and social studies content to develop English literacy skills.
- Academic skill-building with phonics support develops students' understanding of different cultures while fostering independent learning.
- All-in-one Classroom Presentation Tool provides the resources teachers need to prepare for, address, and assess a comprehensive range of instructional priorities and requirements.
- Read on Your Own phonics readers use fiction and non-fiction texts to reinforce the phonics and high-frequency words in Reach Higher through science and social studies content.

HELPING EACH OTHER

We are busy parents! School board meetings are public. However they can be long and challenging for parents to attend. This publication is meant to be a shortcut to information related to special education matters in the district. This is not a comprehensive look at all that will happen at the board meeting. We encourage all members of our community to attend and engage with the school board members. Their information can be found [HERE](#)

Centennial Special Education Alliance is a group of families who receive special education services in the Centennial School District, PA. We aspire to serve each other by providing each other resources, experiences, and support. www.centennalsea.com

Centennial Special Education Alliance is not endorsed by nor affiliated with Centennial School District.



COMPENSATORY EDUCATION

An item on the Consent Agenda during the meeting includes 6.9(a) to approve an agreement for a compensatory education fund. This student's information is private. It does appear as this family needed to seek legal representation to be granted the compensatory education. (as the agreement includes the parent's attorney fees).

What is compensatory education?

Compensatory education is not found in IDEA. It was established by case law. According to the NSEAI, "Compensatory education is for a student deprived of reaching their special education and related services goals in their IEP. Compensatory education is an educational fund or services put in place to help a child to get caught up where deficiencies have been found in meeting IEP goals, when the school district is out of compliance in providing FAPE. It is designed to take a child who is behind and take them forward to the level they should have been if there had not been a violation and they had received appropriate services."

It can be approved by the LEA (Centennial), through a complaint to the PA Dept of Education, or through a due process hearing.

Follow these links for more info....

[Education Law Center](#)

[The Public Interest Law Center](#)

[National Special Education Advocacy Institute](#)

If you feel your child is entitled to compensatory education, be sure to document everything. Reach

Personnel

There are many changes noted in the personnel section of the meeting minutes. Of note,

1. Coordinator of Teaching and Learning position formerly held by Meg Burke is to be filled by Althea Tomlinson.
2. There is a new assistant principal at Willow Dale, Daniel Julius.
3. There are many resignations for PCA's, cafeteria workers, and monitors. These positions are critical to the success of students with support needs. We hope someday the benefit and pay structure can match our appreciation for their work with our kids! In fact – did you know that Sept 10–16 is direct support professional week? How could our district support and celebrate our direct support workers? Email the board and give them ideas!!!

Questions or concerns?

CSD has a page dedicated to "Addressing your questions and concerns"



Centennial School Board contacts can be found here:



If you would like to support us financially, we are a 501c3 organization.

www.centennalsea.com

IMPORTANT SPECIAL EDUCATION NEWS

Not listed in board meeting agenda, however we hope the following news will be adequately discussed and addressed by the district.

Students in Pennsylvania who are eligible under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) may now access a Free and Appropriate Education (FAPE) until their 22nd birthday. This means that if a student would have traditionally finished high school during or after the school year that they turned 21 years old, they may now remain until they are 22 years old. This includes students that exited school last year in the 2022-2023 school term.

Click for links...

GET YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED!
PA Dept of Education Extends FAPE To 22nd Birthday

Part of PEAL's Back to School Series

What does it mean? Who does it impact? What do I need know?

Join us to hear from **Carole L. Clancy, Ed.D.**
Director of the Bureau of Special Education
September 28th 6:00pm

PEAL CENTER


Under new PA Department of Education policy, students who receive special education services may access their free, appropriate public education until their 22nd birthday.

The PEAL Center, along with the Arc of PA, HUNE and Mission Empower, will host Bureau of Special Director Carole Clancy to explain more about the new policy. She will answer questions about the new policy and how it may affect your child with disabilities. (She will be available after the presentation to answer your questions).

If you'd like to submit questions for Dr. Clancy, please submit them to info@pealcenter.org

Questions? Contact training@pealcenter.org

REGISTER



[Full New Policy](#)

[Letter to Parents](#)

[Guidance from PA Dept of Education](#)