

## **Amherst Regional High School Parent Center Minutes from January 16, 2008**

**Next meeting: February 13, 2008**

### Academic and Support Programs, Annie Leonard and Nate May

- Currently ARHS has 233 students who receive specialized services through Special Education. Of the 233, 31% are designated as "high need" based on the intensity of service they receive. The Special Education staff includes 15 special education teachers and 29 educational support staff (paraprofessionals).
- Students in Special Education work toward their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) goals, and toward graduation in the *least restrictive* possible settings.
- The HS supports inclusion of all students.
- Programs:
  - Academic Skills (AS). 103 students. Mainly health or learning disorders.
  - Academic Individualized Mainstream Support (AIMS). 12 students. Supports inclusion of students with Aspergers and slight autism, i.e. high functioning Autism Spectrum Disorders.
  - Student Support Program (SSP). 17 students. To assist students in developing effective coping mechanisms and problem solving strategies. Often manifest as anxiety, and includes those with depression, bipolar.
  - Integrated Language Program (ILP). 17 students. For 9th and 10th grade students with communication disorders.
  - Center for Diverse Learners (CDL). 11 students. Students tend to have intellectual impairments, sometimes more severe communication disorders than those in ILP.
  - Developmental and Vocational Studies Programs (DS). 9 students. Most restrictive program held on the ARHS main campus. Many have physical or motor disorders, greater intellectual impairments, or more severe communication disorders. Primary skills instruction, Major focus is transition to whatever is next for the student after HS.
  - Specialized services. ARHS has (not necessarily full-time):
    - Speech and language pathologist
    - Occupational therapist
    - Physical therapist
    - School psychologists
    - Educational diagnostician
    - Autism and Aspergers specialist
    - Vocational coordinator
  - South Amherst Campus (S.A.C.). 29 students. To re-engage students who have experienced repeated setbacks in more traditional academic settings.
  - East Street Alternative High School (E.S.A.H.). 19 students, may include overlap with S.A.C. Students who have social, emotional or behavioral challenges.

### Next Meeting

- The next meeting will feature a presentation by Cindy Boyle on Internet safety.
- It will most likely be held in the library. Jim Rogers will attempt to reserve the library.

### Mark Jackson Discussion

- Budget: Actual deficit is still in flux. As of the meeting it was projected to be around \$300K for the Region, \$150+K of that for the HS.

- It was voted to approve the Natural Science (Ecology and Environmental Science) requirement.

Mary Jo Maffei

- Program to publicize the tutorial program to the students.
- Will have a contest for best "advertisement" of the program.