Westerly Local Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, October 24, 2013

In Attendance: M. Gomes, T. Pimer, D. Alinson, D. Infante, B. Aiello, P. Potemri, B. Murphy, J. Abberton, K. Falcone

I Call to Order

T. Pimer called the meeting to order at 7:05.

II Old Business

Minutes - Pimer made a motion to accept the September 12 minutes, M. Gomes seconded. Motion passed.

Structured Play - P. Potemri stated that the structured play program has been rolled out and has been implemented in all elementary schools. Teachers’ aides are running the structured play and social workers and adaptive PE teacher was involved in training.

Meeting Dates: There was discussion about the best days for WLAC meetings. K. Falcone made a motion to make the third Thursday of each month our meeting day. T. Pimer seconded. Motion passed.

III New Business

Siblinks. K. Falcone reported that Lifespan trained a "South County" school to run their own Siblinks. The training cost $2000, and trained 2 psychologists and a Social Worker to run the Program. The question is still the billing for the program. Lifespan did not have the answers for that. K. Falcone will look into grants to pay for the training, and will also research the billing questions and report back next month.

Unified Drama. T.Pimer is working with Jack Cottle to try to get unified drama up and running. She feels that it would work better as an actual class as opposed to an after school activity. B. Murphy will work on getting it put on the schedule and report back next month. B. Murphy will also reach out to M. Templeton at the Middle School to see if a unified drama at that level could happen.

Project Unified. B. Murphy reported on his efforts to get unified activities into many different areas of the High School. Currently, there is volleyball and basketball. He will report on this as new unified areas are coming to fruition.

Home/School Communication. K. Falcone spoke about the lack of consistency with communication with parents. Parents often feel they are the last to know about important issues regarding their children. It is especially important when dealing with non-verbal children. P. Potemri
reported that there are 2 professional development days in January and that Home/School communication is one to the topics to be discussed and a protocol to be drawn up. She will report back in January.

District wide lunch bunches. It was reported that lunch bunches occur at all schools. Most are more casual and informal. The peers seek out the tables with our kids and want to sit and talk with them.

ABA Presentation. K. Falcone would like Jen Marshall to do a presentation on ABA for the group. She will look into scheduling it and report back next month.

IV Hearing from the public

D. Infante stated that she felt a disconnect at the Middle School level. She noted that the Elementary level has a great feeling of community, and the High School is working hard at creating community with the Project Unified, but the Middle School just doesn't have that community. P. Potemri suggested inviting the Middle School administration to the next meeting to discuss this. K. Falcone will contact them.

V. Adjournment. K. Falcone called for adjournment at 8:05. T. Pimer seconded. Motion passed.