

SPECIAL EDUCATION
School Board Report
October 15, 2018

- We are feeling the stress of being short staffed across the District. We are in desperate need of educational technicians. We have been advertising and information on how to become certified as an ed tech will be going out shortly in school newsletters. Unfortunately, the DOE certification office is backed up and certification takes several weeks. I have offered positions this fall that have been turned down due to our salary scale. For example, SAD52 starts their ed tech III's at \$17.04/ hour (17-18) and we start at \$12.99. That is a major obstacle to overcome.
- We are starting the work to prepare for our State audit. This is a time for the State to review our paperwork and give us feedback on what we are doing well and where we need to improve. This does not impact our special education funding nor are there any Special Ed police who will pay us a visit (despite popular rumors). We will be start by having every case manager review each of their files to make sure all necessary paperwork is in the hard file. They will use checklists to do this. Then the team leaders and I will do a desk audit of 20% of our special education files. The state will come in February to do additional file audits.
- At our October 5th workshop day, the K-6 Special Education Staff prepared and presented a workshop on Phonological Processing for the PreK to 2nd grade teachers, along with other special education teachers and ed techs. I appreciate all the work they did to put together a stellar presentation. While they were presenting, Jo St. Peter-Scott (academic evaluator/team leader at Middle/High School) and myself started a safety training course, and several other teachers and ed techs became certified in CPR/First Aid. It was a busy workshop day.
- A great big thank you to Jo St. Peter-Scott for agreeing to take on the team leader role at Elm Street School. This role has gone unfilled for the past two and half years (I did my best to cover the needs but I am happy to have someone in this role again—as are the staff at ESS).