



Intermediate  
School  
District 917

## Intermediate School District 917

1300 145th Street East  
Rosemount, MN 55068

Telephone: 651-423-8000; FAX: 651-423-8781

### ISD 917 BOARD NOTES

April 7, 2020

### Regular Board Meeting



#### 917 Non-Licensed Staff of the Spring Quarter is Colleen Redfield!

**Colleen Redfield** is a paraprofessional in the *CASE* program at *Alliance Education Center*. Colleen is a passionate, intelligent, and dedicated member of the *CASE* program where her many skills, talents, and vast knowledge of educational principles, concepts, and theory are used every day. Colleen goes a mile a minute in both her speech and in her ability to adapt to every student's unique needs. Being a mother of her own children with unique needs, she homeschooled her children, and without a doubt, brings her unique experiences and knowledge to work everyday. Her students understand that while Colleen can be both a stickler for expectations and loves to talk, she cares deeply and won't give up on anyone, no matter how hard they wish she would. It is her unwavering high expectations of her students and herself that set her apart. We are very grateful for all she brings to the *CASE* program.

#### 917 Licensed Staff of the Spring Quarter is Adrienne Turzinski

**Adrienne Turzinski** is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, in the *SUN* program at *Cedar School*. Adrienne is an integral and influential part of the school team. Her influence is felt throughout the building in every classroom and with every teacher. We believe her expertise is an influencing factor in decreasing our restrictive procedures by 56%. Adrienne is approachable and guides teachers in behavioral interventions and behavioral plans. She is supportive of staff, while also providing helpful, manageable feedback in order to increase students' positive behaviors. She works easily with students and models interventions with students so that staff can learn the new behavior plans. Each teacher and paraprofessional in the building see her as an asset and actively seek out her expertise. In addition to helping with the creation and revision of individualized behavioral plans, Adrienne's skills are utilized in larger 'systems' issues at Cedar. She trains teachers and paraprofessionals in data collection techniques so that data is an accurate representation of student behavior. The data then helps to guide interventions and updates of behavioral plans. During IEP meetings, she distills large amounts of data into understandable, practical summaries for staff and parents. In addition, she assists teachers in the FBA process, in the development of Positive Behavioral Support Plans, and regularly meets with staff to determine the effectiveness of the plans. Finally, she is part of Cedar's Restrictive Procedures Committee, and leads de-briefs following a restrictive procedure. On a district-wide level, Adrienne worked tirelessly to update the FBA manual so that teachers have a usable reference guide. She was the first BCBA hired in our district and has, by example, paved the way for the growing number of such professionals. She mentors the new BCBAs district-wide and serves on a state-wide group for school-based BCBAs. In summary, Adrienne brings a high level of skill and expertise in behavioral change while creating caring supportive relationships with staff, students, and families. She helps students become more successful, decrease disruptive and unsafe behaviors, and increase connection between students and staff.

## PERSONNEL

**New hires:** Melissa Ackerson, Classroom Assistant, effective March 10, 2020. Karley Branscomb, Classroom Assistant, effective March 16, 2020. Monique Corcoran, Board Certified Behavior Analyst, effective March 20, 2020. Andrea Fonseca, Classroom Assistant, effective April 1, 2020. Ohjoon Kwon, Mathematics Teacher DCALS North, effective March 20, 2020. Karisa Sorensen, Program Assistant, effective March 20, 2020. Kimberly Wiklund, Classroom Assistant, effective March 10, 2020. **Change in status:** Madeleine August, Special Education Teacher, effective February 10, 2020. Stacy Landgraf, Student Assistant to Classroom Assistant, effective March 16, 2020. **Terminations and Resignations:** Kaitlin Adams, School Social Worker, effective June 5, 2020. Andrea Amos, Classroom Assistant, effective February 28, 2020. Becky Hague, Special Education Teacher, effective June 5, 2020. Employee, Classroom Assistant, effective March 19, 2020. Shelbee Jaeger, Special Education Teacher, June 5, 2020. Bridget Kopp, Special Education Teacher, effective June 5, 2020. Rebecca Kruse, School Nurse, effective June 5, 2020. Alexandra Lang, Classroom Assistant, effective March 20, 2020. Brian Moga, Special Education Teacher, effective June 5, 2020. Nichole Short, School Psychologist, effective June 5, 2020. Amanda Tveraa, LSN Teacher, effective June 5, 2020. Angelyn Weber, Special Education Teacher, effective June 5, 2020. Employee, Health Associate, effective March 25, 2020.

## Calendar Information

**April 21, 2020** – 4:30 PM, School Board Work Session

**May 5, 2020** – 5:00 PM, School Board Meeting



# Happy Spring!

## Donations

Donations in the amount of \$595 was accepted from the following: \$100 to the ISD 917 SkillsUSA Activities Fund in honor of Katrina Walter from the Rosemount Area Arts Council; \$25 to the ISD 917 SkillsUSA Activities Fund in honor of Katrina Walter from John and Ann Loch.; Cuisinart Deluxe Grill Set and a Parini BBQ Grill Set to be used for Staff Recognition door prizes. (Value: \$100.); Culinary Knife Set from Cherry Cramer to be used for Staff Recognition door prizes. (Value: \$35.); \$25 gas card from Mike Callahan of Innovative Office Supplies to be used for Staff Recognition door prizes. \$200 Hyvee Gift Cards from Joe Neumann of Accelerated Technologies, LLC., to be used for Staff Recognition door prizes.; Bluetooth wireless stereo headset from Dakota Electric to be used for Staff Recognition door prizes. (Value: \$70.); Five Subway Gift certificates from the Inver Grove Heights Subway next to Concord Education Center to be used for Staff Recognition door prizes. (Value: \$40.); \$500 from Valmont Industries of Farmington, to be used to purchase magnetic motor equipment for the Intro to Mechatronics and Manufacturing class. (Value: \$500.)

## Baby Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Alison Hrabe**, RN, BSN, LSN, for PACES, TESA and DCALS, and her husband **Josh**, on the birth of their daughter **Quinn Lucille**! Quinn weighed 6 lbs, 14 oz. and was 19 inches long. She is happy and healthy!



Congratulations to first-time **Grandpa Mark Zuzek** on the birth of Emmy Lou Budin, who was born on April 1, 2020.

We have been challenged in recent days to create new ways on being “together apart.” In our professional lives and in our personal lives, it seems that many things have been put on hold. I have come to realize that although it may feel like everything has been frozen in time, life finds a way of moving ahead.

On April 1<sup>st</sup>, my first grand child, Emily Louise Budin (Emmy Lou) was born. Emmy and her parents are doing great. Her grandfather however has been really struggling to not be able to hold her. We drove down to Concord, Minnesota several times to see her through their picture window. Absolutely beautiful... but not the same as holding her. Last Saturday we were able to hold her, while wearing masks and gloves. It really is better than seeing her through a window.

Similarly, with distance learning, we miss the students, we wish we could see them and work with them directly. We want to retain as many rituals and patterns as we can. We know that it would be easier if the children we served were physically present at school. We also know that for their safety and ours, we need to work with them from afar. We don't love them less, or care less about what they learn because we cannot be in the same room.

The kids will come back and we will return to many of the same tasks that bored us in the past. When things return to 'normal,' it will be different than it was. I have enjoyed conversations about what we are learning through this experience that we will intend to carry with us into the future. Life finds a way of moving ahead. When it does move ahead, how will we be forever changed as professionals?

Be well and do good.  
Mark



## GOOD NEWS—DCALS

- **Dale Engman** has helped numerous staff in all our programs set up Digital Learning options through shared resources in Google and outside resources through a wide range of e-learning. He has held daily planning and support sessions for staff in his room.
- **Norm Smith and Rachael Opseth**, School Counselors for our DCALS programs have created and updated websites that provide a wide range of support options for students in our programs.
- **Chris Miller**, 360 Communities Family Social Worker at our DCALS North campus has worked daily to connect with students and families who have support needs within the community.
- DCALS staff from all three sites have worked with each other to create Google Classroom sites for each teacher. Those with greater knowledge of this process met daily with other staff members to get each teacher set up.
- CTE staff has met daily to work on Distance Learning plans with support from each other. They have all created both digital options and paper/pencil options for those without computer access.
- **Dorinda Haasnoot, Kristin Kustrich, Betsy Cook, and Laurie Robertson**, building Admin Asst support, have all worked with staff and parents to communicate current and future plans. They have helped staff with current grade reporting options, new student enrollment plans, scheduling for Quarter 4, and interaction with families who have had questions about future plans. Each have prepared and are ready to work remotely as needed to support staff needs with student schedules and attendance questions.
- **Patti Mattos, Norm Smith, and Rachael Opseth**, have all worked with new and potentially new families and students who are looking to enroll in our programs. They have connected with families to assure them that we will continue to find ways to support enrollment in our programs as the new quarter starts on March 30th.
- Our students are definitely at the center of the creative thinking by our teachers!"
- **Erin Mahnke** has officially begun her position as Dean of Students for the DCALS programs on March 30th. Erin has been a long-time Science teacher within the DCALS main campus program. We are excited to have her working with our students, parents, and staff.



## GOOD NEWS—DCALS

- **Valmont Industries** made a donation to our DCALS main campus math department in the amount of \$500. This money will help to support the growth of our Mechatronics/Robotics and Industry 4.0 program taught by **Lynn Morris**.
- The Construction Trades programs are at the point on the house where they are ready for siding and final inside trim. We are still about three weeks ahead of last year's schedule. We hope to go back soon. **Paul Landwehr-Teacher**
- On Tuesday, March 10th, **Jill Stephenson** spoke to students at the DCALS Main campus. Jill is the mother of former DCALS student **Ben Kopp**. Students in **Erin Hale-Sanford's** History/Literature class read the book, Heart of a Ranger, about Ben's life and ultimate sacrifice. With pictures from Ben's life playing in the background, Jill spoke to students about his determination to become an Army Ranger. She recalled how Ben had certain obstacles in his life, but instead of giving up, he persevered to make his dreams come true. Jill focused on the fact that Ben has had an impact (and still does) on a lot of people's lives; something that they can strive for in their own lives.



## MOTIONS, REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS

- Motion passed approving the Temporary Employee Report.
- Motion passed approving the 2020-2021 917 School Calendar.
- Resolution passed relating to the termination and nonrenewal of the teaching contracts of probationary teachers.
- Motion passed to approve Policy 534 – Student Meal Charges, final reading.



## GOOD NEWS—Special Education

- **Our staff** is amazing. They have ramped up distance learning for the very unique population of students that we serve. While it is a stressful time, we have seen amazing things as a result of their efforts.
- **Taylor Thomas and Amanda Peters** have been especially helpful in navigating our efforts related to technology. They have provided training and worked to get us access to programs that can make the delivery of services much easier in the weeks ahead.
- Our **social work team**, especially **Alissa Peanasky and Kate Adams**, have been especially amazing during the events of the last few weeks. They have coordinated food shelf pick-ups and deliveries for families as well as compiled a resource document for them.
- Our **nursing team** has also been indispensable during this time. They are active in providing health services for our child care. Additionally, they have deployed items in our inventory, including N95 masks, to health care providers on the front lines.
- **Taylor Thomas and the Assistant Directors/Principals** for their work to outline our district distance learning plan.
- **Jennifer Hetland, Cory Langenfeld, Craig Curtis, Mark Zuzek, Alex Zuzek, Dave Stoll, and Jamie Dalbesio** for working together to get us moved as we manage the unexpected closure of Anthony Louis.
- **Meghan Dobson and Terri Gulbransen** for their work to organize our due process procedures in light of distance learning.
- **Jamie Dalbesio** who started an Instagram page (concordeducationcenter) for Concord Education Center families. She's posted a read along with her son Cam among other things.
- Our **DAPE/PE staff**, especially **Kristin Goeser**. She has a video posted to the Concord Education Center Instagram page. The DAPE/PE team also has a website with physical activities posted: <https://isd917dape.weebly.com>. Activities are posted daily, Monday through Friday.
- **Teresa Stiff** sent me an email to recognize the teacher with whom she works, **Tricia Domally**. In part Teresa shared, she "has set up a wonderful format for all of the paras in her team to be an active part of the distance learning model." Teresa went on to say, "I don't mean to gush or anything, maybe this is going on with every group, but it truly was awesome to touch base with our students. *Apparently we need them as much as they need us!*"

## GOOD NEWS—Special Education

- **Hannah Radant** at Concord Education Center is using Smore to communicate daily assignments with families. Each subject is covered and links are provided to access assignment details. She's also included messages from paraprofessionals working in her classroom!
- We were notified on March 24th that Anthony Louis, a chemical dependency program in ISD 191 that we provide education to, was getting out of their lease effective at the end of March. While they will still provide service via telepractice and we will still educate students in the program, the space must be vacated by March 31st. Kudos to **Jennifer Hetland** for her work to coordinate our efforts. Along with the team that assisted her- **Cory Langenfeld, Craig Curtis, Mark Zuzek, Alex Zuzek, Dave Stoll, and Jamie Dalbesio**.
- Adaptive Physical Education Teacher, **Mary Callister** has made the best of her time social distancing. Mary is using her sewing skills to make masks to give to community members who have autoimmune disorders.
- The staff at Concord Education Center have been amazing as we are transitioning to a distance learning model. All staff -- licensed, non-licensed, and itinerant -- are working collaboratively to design programs for our students that are innovative and make the most of students not being able to be in-building for programming. Classroom teachers have set up content-rich Google Classrooms for communication hubs for families. Teachers and paras have made check-in videos for students and families. Despite the uncertain times, I am so proud to be on this amazing team of educators.
- TESA, DASH and PACES staff have done a tremendous job of creating a distance learning plan that will be utilizing a weekly choice board format breaking activities down by student goals/objectives and the different subjects taught throughout the instructional day. Each student will receive his/her own weekly plan, and parents/caregivers will choose activities to complete from each column throughout the course of the week. Due to the high level of support that each student needs, teachers will focus on building learning opportunities into the students regular activities of daily living as much as possible--incorporating communication and social skills learning opportunities within naturally occurring events/natural settings. Everyone has really stepped up and has risen to the occasion in these challenging times.

## GOOD NEWS—Special Education

- On February 25th, seven students from Bloomington, Burnsville, Hastings, and West St. Paul/Mendota Heights, along with four vision teachers, attended a field trip to Sea Quest in Roseville. The field trip was sponsored by the MN Low Incidence Project and included elementary students with visual impairments from all over the metro area! The students spent the day learning about and touching many different animals, including sharks, stingrays, and chickens. Several brave students touched and hand-fed stingrays, and one brave teacher (very briefly) touched a snake! New friendships were formed and a good time was had by all!



- On March 5, the monthly opportunity to play goalball occurred in the evening for students with visual impairments at Concord Education Center. There was a small group of students that focused on skill development for the evening. Fun was had by all. There was even a little learner who played with the students for the evening.

