



Advocating for Children with Special Needs



- Purpose of the PAC
- Overview of 2011-2012 Programming
- Special Education Guide
- Progress and Accomplishments
- Budget Commentary
- Thank You!



The Milton Parent Advisory Council exists to:

- Provide information and support to all parents and guardians of children receiving special education services and other interested parties
- Advise the district on matters that pertain to the education and safety of students with disabilities
- Work collaboratively with the Milton Public Schools on the development, planning and evaluation of special education programs



OVERVIEW OF 2011-2012 PROGRAMS

- PAC Meetings
- Pre-school through 12 Roundtables
- Parent Speak



OVERVIEW OF 2011-2012 PROGRAMS

- **PAC Meetings consist of information and experience sharing with fellow parents of children with Special Needs. Generally there are speakers followed by a discussion and Q & A.**
- **October – Meet, greet and presentation from Karen Clasby, our new Special Education Director.**
- **November – Basic Rights Training from the Federation of Children with Special Needs**



OVERVIEW OF 2011-2012 PROGRAMS

PRE-SCHOOL THROUGH 12 Roundtables

Meetings are planned in collaboration with MPS administration so parents can learn about special education programs and services at each level, and get their questions answered.

These meetings are attended by Mary Gormley, Karen Clasby and a diverse cross-section teachers, administrators and therapists.



OVERVIEW OF 2011-2012 PROGRAMS

"Parent Speak"

Parent Speak *"...is an opportunity for parents to share concerns as we work together as an advocacy group to improve special education services in the Milton Public Schools." Parents Sharing Concerns about... The implementation of their child's IEP, problems they are having now or have had in the past. An opportunity for parents to share information about how they were able to overcome issues related to their child's IEP.*



SPECIAL EDUCATION GUIDE

- **“One stop” resource for parents**
- **Roadmap to all Special Education services in Milton. (i.e. new entrants, transitions)**
- **February, 2012 Update/revision from the Administration**



PROGRESS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ✓ **Communication**
- ✓ **Special Education Programming**
- ✓ **Special Education Guide**
- ✓ **Budget Advocacy**



BUDGET COMMENTARY CONCERNS

District Wide Concerns

- **Reduction of 6 Educational Assistants** – “Reduced supervision during non-classroom time and activities (e.g. lunch, recess, transportation transitions) – We are very concerned about the impact on the anti-bullying law.
- **Reduction of SPED Related Services** – “Building based providers reduced and become district wide providers traveling between buildings.



BUDGET COMMENTARY

Pre-school Concerns

The "Reduction of Pre-School Supervision and Coordination" is another deduction to Special Education. The Pre School program only exists to meet the needs of those ages 3-5 in need of special education.



BUDGET COMMENTARY

Elementary Concerns

- **Paraprofessional cuts (how many of the 6?)**
- **Reduced a Resource Room** at the elementary level



BUDGET COMMENTARY

Middle School Concerns

Reduction of SPED Teacher “Continuation of Language Based Special Education Program to Middle School does not happen”



BUDGET COMMENTARY

High School Concerns

- 0.5 Alternative Education Program Teacher
- Reassign 1 of 2 teaching staff for part of the day, increasing class size in this program



THANK YOU!