

Director's Report August 4, 2017

Welcome

Annual Update on C.A.S.E. Facilities

Central Office

Current lease from CCSD 89 is through September 30, 2020

Glenwood

Current lease from Queen Bee 16 is through June 30, 2018

C.A.S.E. Itinerant Office

Current lease from L.L.C. Rothbart Realty is through June 30, 2018

Extended School Year

- Thank you to Queen Bee 16 for the use of Glen Hill and Glenside Middle School
- Participation was high – overall there were approximately 370 students who attended ESY from across the cooperative
- Full report with recommendations for ESY 2018 will be presented at the September Board meeting.

Start-up for 2017-2018

- Recruited and hired 11 new staff members as of August 1, 2017.
- New staff orientation is on Thursday August 10, 2017.
- C.A.S.E. all-staff meeting will be on Thursday August 31, 2017 at 2:30pm.
- Please inform building administrators about CASE In-Service day! We are asking that CASE staff be permitted to leave at 2:20.

Staff Activities

Special Education Directors Conference

Keynote speakers Dr. Elise Frattura and Dr. Colleen A. Capper presented on “Integrated Comprehensive Systems for Equity.” They gave an overview of the four cornerstone framework and process which includes a) a focus on equity; b) alignment of staff and students; c) transforming teaching and learning; and, d) leveraging funding and policy.

Workshops we attended included IL State Plan for ESSA Overview, IL-EMPOWER, PERA at the Early Childhood Level, Updated Guidance for ELs with Disabilities and School Health Issues. The handouts from the sessions presented are online at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Annual-Special-Education->

[Directors-Conference.aspx](#). Information specific to staff (particularly ELL and school health updates) will be shared at Learning Team meetings this year.

Supervisory Cohort

CASE partnered with Aurora University to host a cohort for staff in low-incidence areas (Vision, Hearing, Speech) to offer a two-course program that would allow participants to have their PELs endorsed as Technical Supervisors. Nineteen individuals participated in the cohort including 5 members of the CASE staff.



District 93 Tech Academy

Sherri Maupin-Szweda offered several workshops at the District 93 Tech Academy this summer. Workshops she facilitated included:

- **MacBook 101**
Provided to paraprofessionals or any staff who were new to using a district MacBook Air. Participants were guided through basic operations such as charging the device, accessing files, opening web browsers, creating desktop shortcuts, and logging into their district Gmail account. Participants also explored the apps and features on the MacBook that they were interested in learning more about.
- **Universal Design for Learning**
In this course the terminology and principles of UDL were reviewed. Participants shared UDL strategies they are using in District 93 and were encouraged to collaborate on ideas for further addressing each principle of UDL across classroom and school settings.
- **Assistive Technology Considerations and the SETT Framework**
The contents of this course were based on the Illinois Assistive Technology Guidance Manual and the SETT Framework for Assistive Technology. This course targeted licensed special education staff and service providers who collaborate on assistive technology services and tools for students.
- **Speech Recognition as Assistive Technology for Writing**
This session focused on the use of speech recognition as a tool for writing. The skills required for speech recognition to be an effective tool were discussed during this session. Participants may download a free guide (written by Kelly Key & Daniel Cochrane) at the time of the session.
- **Co:Writer and Snap & Read**
Co:Writer and Snap & Read are available on all CCSD93 MacBook Air devices. They were designed to support struggling readers and writers. This workshop included step-by-step tutorials of the features found in Co:Writer and Snap & Read and included time to practice using the features.

- **Assistive Technology for Executive Function Skills**

This session focused on assistive technology tools that support executive functions in students. The session included tools using Universal Design for Learning principles as well as assistive technology supports which can be customized to meet individual needs for learners with disabilities.

Assessment for Learning

Mary Furbush and Maureen Quirk created and led a workshop for CASE related services staff members in District 15 on Assessment for Learning. A second session is planned for mid-August.

IAD/IRID

Mindy Long and Faith Pritchard attended the Illinois Association for the Deaf and Illinois Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf Conference in Naperville. Workshops on ethics, interpreting in STEM, inclusive practices for deaf students and the American with Disabilities Act were offered.

Legislative Summit

Mary Furbush attending the 2017 Special Education Legislative Summit in Washington, DC in July with other members of the Illinois Alliance for Special Education Administrators and the Illinois Council of Exceptional Children. We had several presentations by OSEP, OCR and DOE. Our final day of the summit included meeting with members of Congress and/or their staff members to discuss Medicaid funding, MOE, vouchers and IDEA funding.



Hearing Like Me

A parent of one of the DHH students who is served through CASE Itinerant Services writes a monthly blog for Phonak Corporation. An excerpt from her recent blog-

“However, one huge piece that came out of the year was there were gaps in his vocabulary. With more understanding from his hearing itinerant, Kara Graham, I began to have a better understanding why. ‘It’s tough for kids with hearing loss to learn language “incidentally” meaning, they don’t necessarily

overhear their parents talking and pick up the “side language” – Kara Graham, Hearing Itinerant Teacher at CASE Itinerant Services.” Nice job Kara!

Physical Therapy

Julie Segatti spent her summer working at a Pediatric clinic in Hinsdale and also attended a course entitled “The Habits of Stress-Resilient People” with one of our school nurses.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Furbush