



evanston citizens for appropriate special education

Evanston CASE August 2008 Newsletter

Dear CASE members:

I hope you have had an enjoyable and relaxing summer. This newsletter will inform you about our goals for the coming school year, committee objectives and planned activities. At our August 13th meeting, CASE members clarified our mission statement to read as follows:

To advocate for improvement in the range, quality and implementation of special education services in Evanston/Skokie School District 65.

Three goals were defined with the objectives that we will pursue to attain these goals. For more detailed information, please visit the website.

- 1. To increase awareness of special needs issues and broaden support for CASE's mission.**
We will pursue support of PTA's ; reach out to political representatives for support; pursue collaborative relationships with other community organizations; increase diversity of CASE membership by reaching out to agencies that serve low income families; provide support and information for parents of children with special needs.
- 2. To influence changes in policies, procedures and programs that effect children with special needs.**
We will monitor compliance with IDEA, state and federal laws and regulations; attend board meetings and present recommendations and feedback to influence policy development and implementation; advocate for increased support for staff through professional development, and improved resources and facilities; advocate for improved communication, collaboration and responsiveness of the school board and the administration to the parent community.
- 3. Influence the school board by maintaining collaborative and supportive relationships with board members.**

We will educate members and insist that they hold administration accountable for failures in the special services system and give them the knowledge needed to effect change; influence the school board to insist that the administration provide them the data and information they need to monitor the special services system; research and seek out a school board candidate that CASE can endorse.

We also worked to define the committee structure for the coming year.

Legal Committee

1. Research issues related to state and federal special ed law
2. Develop pro bono legal resources
3. Research class action possibilities
4. Compliance complaints
5. FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) requests

Media/Public Relations Committee

1. Write and submit letters to the editor
2. Write content and create brochures, flyers, and business cards
3. Develop “public service announcements” and press releases
4. Advertising
5. Petitions and questionnaires

Membership/fundraising Committee

1. Work to increase diversity in membership
2. Develop resources for funding including grant proposals
3. Investigate 501c3 status

Community Relations Committee

1. Develop connections with elected officials to support CASE’s mission
2. Develop and maintain connections with other parent groups
3. PTA liaison’s and PTA council
4. Develop advisory board

Website Management/CASE contacts

1. Manage website layout and content
2. Write and manage CASE monthly newsletter
3. Respond to phone calls – develop handout for callers with resource information

We are looking for members who would be willing to serve on a committee! You can participate at whatever level works best for you. Any amount of time would be welcome. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please call (847) 556-8676.

We have a lot of work to do this year to accomplish our goals. With over 45 members, our influence is growing stronger and the administration and school board are responding favorably to our efforts. Stay

tuned for information about our activities this fall. Check the website for new content in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your interest and support of Evanston CASE.

Sincerely,

Cari Levin, LCSW

Founding Director, Evanston CASE