
From: Tim Krug [mailto:tkrug13@yahoo.com]

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To: Dascher, Cindy

Cc: Denning, Angela; nancy.ingalls@dcsdk12.org; donna.trujillo@dcsdk12.org; mark.harrell@dcsdk12.org; Anthes, Katy

Subject: Greatest IEP in the history of CO

Hello Cindy and all,

I wanted to write to tell you how attending the PEP conference helped my family participate in one of the greatest IEP meetings in the history of Colorado education. Walking in with our PEP materials in hand, we entered Franktown Elementary in Douglas County feeling confident in our rights and optimistic about the outcome. We were not disappointed.

I want to recognize every member of our district's team because they were each engaged, professional, attentive and impressive. No matter how well prepared we were after PEP, it wouldn't have gone half as well if we didn't have a great team collaborating with us.

What impressed me about this group was that when it was their time to contribute, each individual was prepared and keen to share their part. I felt something like a US President being briefed in a situation room. I was given ideas and options, not excuses or roadblocks. When I asked questions, they were considered and not dismissed. Despite stories to the contrary from other parents in other schools, this meeting was not in any way confrontational. Quite the opposite, it turned out to be a positively charged brain-storming session with some wonderfully bright people. I enjoyed it. How often do you hear that? I enjoyed this IEP meeting. Every participant came up with at least one idea or solution to improve my son's life. Everyone there played an important part. I never felt rushed or that my son was unimportant. I came out of this meeting feeling that this school is the best place in the world for my son. I hope every Colorado parent leaves their IEP feeling the same way. We owe PEP a huge thank you for putting us into a positive mindset and for giving us the knowledge we needed to have a productive meeting.

For my part, I believe very strongly that attending the PEP conference made all the difference in terms of how my family approached our IEP. For their part, I am not sure how the professionals created such a wonderful atmosphere, but I would suggest we start by asking Sharon MacLeod, SLP at Franktown. Sharon facilitated the meeting and it was immediately apparent that her knowledge and command of the issues inspired everyone to bring their A game. Mark Harrell, Principal at Franktown, was also in attendance and the more I see him interact with his staff and the respect they have for him, the less surprised I am at the abundance of impressive work being done there.

The other rising stars were Sarah Fruth (MNI), Marcia Decker (1st Grade), Jennifer Hunsinger (OT), Lynne Varone (School Psychologist), Morgan Allard (SSNT) and Kim Bertha (Special Education Coordinator) who all contributed positively to our experience.

Toward the end of the meeting there was a question on the table and Kim Bertha, representing the district, stepped up and hit it out of the park. We collectively stopped a second to appreciate it, because it was the culminating moment of a meeting in which state, district, school and family all came together to affect a positive impact in a child's life. I'm sure everyone left feeling proud of the work they did.

As you can see, I cannot say enough about this team. I highly suggest CDE considers tapping into their success so that it could be repeated throughout the state.

Cindy, I trust you and everyone at CDE is enjoying the summer. I hope you can enjoy it just a little bit more knowing that through PEP, you and your staff were part of that moment when a very positive impact was made in my son's life.

Thank you,

Tim Krug

(PEP Fall 2015)