

The Indian Prairie Special Needs PTA has asked each of the 31 PTA's in District 204 to create a position within their own PTA that will help facilitate the coordination of efforts put forth by the Indian Prairie Special Needs (IPSN) PTA and each school in district school.

This position would create multiple opportunities for each PTA and for the Indian Prairie Special Needs PTA.

- This person would serve as a liaison between Indian Prairie Special Needs PTA and their home school's PTA, thus providing a parent that could serve as a contact person. This alone would serve two purposes:
 1. Many questions come from parents coming into this district who want to know about specific schools or programs that are offered. If they could be directed to someone from the school in question, a great service could be offered to these parents.
 2. When parents first receive a diagnosis of their child's disability, they are often at a loss as to where to go for answers, support and information about a variety of things. By having a Special Needs liaison within each PTA, you would be providing a valuable resource within your own school.
- Special Needs parents/students could provide their own schools with valuable feedback in planning events at your school that might affect the special needs population.
- Parents of special needs children in every school could be more efficiently informed about what is going on in special education. The Indian Prairie Special Needs PTA offers information on seminars, workshops, parent training, advocacy and many other resources which are available to parents and children, not limited to the special needs population. However, this information would be available to the general population as well by having a special needs representative from each school at the PTA meetings. Often, the information is useful to all parents.
- In a district as diverse as ours, it is important to include the learning diversities that are present in D204. By having a special needs liaison within each school's PTA, it would create many learning opportunities for parents and children in our district school by making them aware of the things going on in the Indian Prairie Special Needs PTA. Not only learning opportunities for the special needs population, but for all of your student/parent population in our district.
- Information for the Indian Prairie Special Needs PTA could be included in each school's newsletter or website in a more timely fashion because your own representative would know their own school's deadlines for newsletters.

Some possible responsibilities for an Indian Prairie Special Needs PTA Liaison:

- Attend monthly meetings of the IPSN PTA whenever possible
- Report back to your own school's PTA any information from the IPSN PTA that may be relevant to their parent/student population

- Report at the IPSN PTA meeting about any upcoming events at your school. Especially if there is something that might be related to special needs, (i.e. Learning Differences at Steck last year) so that other parents from the district might attend or to gather ideas for planning something similar at their own school.
- Work with their own PTA to ensure that any accommodations are made for any events that are happening at your school. For example, I've received comments from special needs parents who have said that some PTA activities don't take into account the various sensory needs of some special needs children.

Other notes:

- This person would NOT have to be a parent of a special needs child. However, due to the nature of some questions or feedback needed, it would be helpful, but not required.
- Ideally, this position would go into effect for the 2008-09 school year or as soon as this position could be filled.
- Questions: Contact Lori Price at loriannprice@yahoo.com or via phone at 630-499-9876