

Minutes from Homeless Advisory Board
February 11th, 2016

Members present: Kathy Palm, Director of Curriculum, Stephanie Hubbard, Director of Special Education, Greg Liedl, Transportation Coordinator, Angie Lauderbaugh, Homeless Liaison, Alea Alstead, Intern Homeless Liaison

1. Alea gave her perspective on the McKinney Vento program and noted that she was surprised at the large need and numbers of homeless students in our school district.
2. Projects Alea has been working on and will be working on: Helping students be successful in school by providing support with the Science Faire as well as support groups – stress group completed and working on forming groups at Lincoln, JW, Central and another at MS.
3. Recognition of \$1,200 from BHS students who raised money through the production of Shrek to donate to McKinney Vento students. \$594 was raised by the Annual Homeless Awareness Chicken dinner, 1st National bank made a cash donation of \$100 as well as gift certificates and winter gear and blankets for students * Also, not mentioned at the meeting – St. Phips youth group donated 50 duffle bags, each filled with a stuffed animal, a snack and a book. Nancy Hanson’s mother-in-law has donated approximately 50 quilts and winter wear for our families, several clubs have donated tie blankets (4-H, after school program at HM and High School classroom).
4. Number of students qualifying for McKinney Vento at each school (attached)
5. Large number of students at Central elementary due to VOH, Women’s Shelter, Oshki Manidoo all attending Central School – we have already identified 33 students in Central School alone as ‘homeless’. Total number this year so far is beyond 200 students
6. Students moving into our shelters are being offered the choice of looking into transportation to return to RL and so far, all have chosen to enroll in our district. Angie will talk with Susan Ninham to see if we can have her connect with RL students prior to enrolling them in our district.

7. Registration was discussed and the unique needs of Evergreen students as well as confidentiality it was determined that for now – We will continue registering students using Evergreen address and Evergreen as guardian. When Jolene comes back, I will check with her to see if there is anything else that needs to be done. Each student that enters Evergreen is unique – many are in between guardians and have been recently removed from homes, many have no contact orders in place, so to err on the side of caution, we are just using Evergreen as address and guardian.
8. Attached you will see there is much discussion at the state level for homeless students age 0-4 yrs. There was a series of meeting in the metro area to give recommendations to the state on best practice when working with the entire family of homeless children age 0-4.
9. Also attached is a flier for upcoming meeting Stephanie Hubbard passed on from THRIVE is a local collaboration of professionals who serve our community's youngest children and their families. Of particular focus are projects that impact early childhood mental health. BASC has held a position on the Thrive Advisory Board for many years.
10. One final attachment are the notes from a transportation meeting that local agencies came together to discuss our lack of efficient transportation in the Bemidji area. Greg will try to attend the next meeting which is set for Monday February 22nd at 12:00.