**Teacher Spotlight: Jaclyn Knapp**

**Director of Special Education, Park City School District**

1. **Where are you from?**

I grew up in Ogden, Utah.

1. **Kids/Family?**

Husband John, two kids (Anne 8) (Jack 5)

1. **Hobbies/Passions?**

Girl Scout troop leader and spending time with family

1. **Education**

Weber St: Bachelor of Science, Psychology

Utah State: Master of Science: Psychology

Utah State: Education Specialist: School Psychology

1. **How did you start as a teacher/Special Ed Director?**

I’ve never not been in education. I started working with children who have autism as a paraprofessional in high school and then continued into my college degree. I began my formal career in education working as a school psychologist in Davis County School District. I spent time working as a consultant and parent advocate for private and charter schools as well as teaching and researching educational outcomes at Weber State.

1. **Why Park City School District?**

Park City School District is one of a very few number of districts in the state that has the funding and support to really effect change for Special Education students. The teachers and the staff are talented and committed to improving the strategy, programs and services provided to students.

1. **Tell us some things about Special Ed most of us might not know.**

Special Education is all about aiding in the child finding process, which is detecting disability even if it is not immediately obvious, pre-k through high school.

Special education, particularly in the case of more severe students, should play a role in students’ career and life transition. For some the students who are not college bound, we help them develop a life plan after they leave us.

1. **What are your hopes and goals for PCSD when it comes to Special Ed?**

I am really focused on three main objectives: building relationship with community,

supporting staff and working to maintain excellent legal compliance. Doing this will

mean creating transparency across teachers, administration and parents. It also means

providing professional training and development in order to further increase the skill set

on the front line.

1. **What is one of your proudest accomplishments?**

My favorite thing to do is to work on a policies and procedure and then see them applied in the classroom, even though the students had no idea that I played a role in creating them. I want to build systems that will outlast me but that add long-term value for students and schools

1. **What does PCEF mean to you?**

Because of its funding and support, PCEF enables my team to take on so many initiatives that we would not otherwise be able to. It makes possible expedited grants for special project and provides a day out in our community for disabled students. These kinds of activities would never happen without them.