

BOARD OF EDUCATION, NEW FAIRFIELD, CT
Special Education Ad Hoc Subcommittee Meeting

Name of Subcommittee: Special Education Ad Hoc Meeting type: Regular
Date of Meeting: 4/7/22 Minutes submitted by: Kimberly LaTourette
Members present: Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Stephanie Strazza
Member absent:
Other attendees: Patricia Cosentino, Katherine Matz, Melissa Busnel
Meeting Access: SPED (4/7/22 at 6 p.m.) Web: <https://zoom.us/j/99359265650>
Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 993 5926 5650

Stephanie Strazza called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. December 2, 2021

Motion: To approve the minutes of the December 2, 2021, meeting

Made by: Kimberly LaTourette

Seconded by: Samantha Mannion

Recording of Vote: All in favor

III. ACTION ITEMS - none

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Discussion of ELC - Dr. Cosentino and Katherine Matz provided an update on the enrollment for next year, stating that some students will be held back instead of moving on to kindergarten due to their IEPs and individual needs. However, they wanted us to be aware that parents may request that their typical students stay back. That is not what this program is for. If parents of typical students would like their child to repeat another year of preschool, they would need to enroll them in another private preschool program.

B. STRIDES Update - Katherine Matz and Melissa Busnel provided a presentation about the secondary post education program that has been designed through the STRIDES program. The new STRIDES location is 4 Liberty Street, right across from Danbury Library. The program has been there for about a month. The teacher and students would like to have a "ribbon cutting" for this new space. Melissa spoke about students being able to take classes at Naugatuck, also near the new location, in the fall. The students are getting used to riding the Hart bus, as well as going to The Summit for their job locations. The Summit has embraced our students and program - barber shop, Market Place Restaurant. Our students have had a lot more opportunities. Samantha asked how many students are enrolled - Melissa said that there are four. Some of them are receiving services from the district as well (speech, BCBA...). Katherine is anticipating several additional students to join the program next year. We are now fully staffed, with paras who are trained appropriately for job coaching. One teacher and 3 paras for next year is appropriate for 8 students (anticipated) for next year. Depending on the needs of the students, some of them may not even need job coaching and may be able to take classes and then come back for a short time.

V. OTHER - Ed Sbordone mentioned sharing the agendas with the parents of children with special needs. Katherine Matz said it would be possible to share with an email.

Motion to adjourn: Made by: Stephanie Strazza

Seconded by: Samantha Mannion

Recording of vote: All in favor

Meeting adjourned at: 6:32 p.m.