

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: 12/1/22 Minutes submitted by: Kimberly LaTourette
Members present: Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Stephanie Strazza
Member absent:
Other attendees: Ken Crow, Katherine Matz, Melissa Busnel, Tim Blair, Amy Johnson
Place of meeting: New Fairfield Community Room

Stephanie Strazza called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. October 6, 2022

Motion: To approve the minutes of the October 6, 2022, meeting

Made by: Kimberly LaTourette

Seconded by: Samantha Mannion

Recording of Vote: All in favor

III. ACTION ITEMS - none

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE) Process - Katherine Matz presented information (and provided a packet) about the IEEs. All IEEs are outside evaluations provided by someone who is not a board employee. Not all evaluations done outside are IEEs. Sometimes families will request an outside reevaluation, but that doesn't always mean it meets the definition of the district IEE. Families may disagree with the evaluation/testing results from the district. There are two different types of disagreements - "results do not reflect my child, do not agree with interpretation, do not agree with recommendations for the IEP." The other may be if we have done an evaluation (most often initial or triannual) to determine eligibility. Families may not think that the reevaluation is comprehensive enough. This would be if we failed to perform a certain test, but it needs to be fair. The district tries to work collaboratively with the family instead of filing for due process. We prefer to establish a relationship with the family and have one another's trust. We evaluate in all of the areas of concern at the time. Families can make a request, and this be done during a meeting, a phone call, or email to PPS. The packet that Katherine Matz provided goes through the process of requesting an IEE and what happens from there. There are circumstances where families do not have a right to have an IEE. There is criteria for evaluators as well. The district funds the IEE. The evaluators must only evaluate what they specialize in and be located in Connecticut, unless they are appropriate in New York. The district feels that it is always best for the evaluator to be the one that works with the student in school and in the school setting.

B. Budget FY 24 – ESSER-Funded Positions

Dr. Crow provided an attachment to point out the positions from SPED that are currently funded with the ESSER Grant. We need to figure out funding for this upcoming school year.

V. OTHER – none

Motion to adjourn: Made by: Stephanie Strazza

Seconded by: Samantha Mannion

Recording of vote: All in favor

Meeting adjourned at: 6:49 p.m.