

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: 10/1/20 Minutes submitted by: Kimberly LaTourette
Members present: Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Stephanie Strazza
Member absent:
Other attendees: Patricia Cosentino, Katherine Matz, Melissa Busnel, Ed Sbordone and Rick Regan
Meeting Access: SPED (10/1 at 6 p.m.) Web: <https://zoom.us/j/93513230707>
Dial In:(929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 935 1323 0707

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. August 13, 2020

Motion: To approve the minutes of the August 13, 2020, meeting

Made by: Samantha Mannion

Seconded by: Kimberly LaTourette

Recording of Vote: All in favor

III. ACTION ITEMS – none

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Reopening Special Education Updates

1. IEPs: Implementation of Services, Assessments - IEPs should be implemented to the best extent possible. That has expired. We are offering services and full services to everyone. PPTs and annual reviews are being scheduled. We have to follow the IEP and follow their services. They are still written for in-person learning. The State will recognize changes for remote learning; for example: preferential seating doesn't make sense for remote learners.

Assessments/Evaluations: What makes sense for kids in person and remote? What other measures can we use? Everything will be handled on a case by case basis. Samantha asked how far behind are we with "catching up" with meetings. Katherine believes they will all be done before the end of October. We should not fall out of compliance with anyone. Melissa reminded us of the "Implementation Plan" for remote students. Changes to services would have to be documented. Stephanie asked if we are being careful about exiting students from services right now. Katherine responded the default position would be to continue unless there is evidence to prove otherwise.

2. Remote Learners - Julie Luby had a webinar last night and will speak again tonight. From a SPED perspective, these are still our students, and they should be receiving their services. The feedback they are receiving is that synchronous services are going well. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the case manager or K. Matz and M. Busnel.

3. Staffing - Staffing has been the biggest challenge. Pupil Personnel Services is a shortage area in CT. We have struggled all summer and into the fall to fill positions. The Middle School had two retirees, posted, and were able to fill. There was one resignation in August. At MHHS, a couple of teachers, a psychologist and Speech and Language are on leave. There have been lots of long-term subs to fill in. Some positions were offered to seven different applicants and some positions were changed to full year instead of long-term sub so that people would want it and not leave for other full-time positions. All positions are now filled. Wilson reading position is being filled (not official yet). Speech and Language is a very difficult position to fill. K. Matz reached out to EdAdvance, CREC and admin group (many others were looking as well). The position was

filled but this individual can only come in three days a week, so some things are being switched around. We are hoping to perform some evaluations outside of school hours so that SLPs are available to provide services.

4. Compensatory Services - Compensatory Services is the remedy for this situation - IEP services have not been provided, or because of how the IEP was developed. We need to correct it and make up for the time of insufficient services. Technically, when a staff member is absent and service is not provided, Compensatory Ed does not occur until after 2 weeks. Katherine said that these services are important, that we will count services from the start of the school year. They will be reaching out to parents. Letters went home to parents at MHHS this afternoon and they will be reaching out soon to individual families. We are waiting for guidance on "recovery services." We are seeing where the students are and updating IEPs based on what the student is showing us right now. We are looking at every student on a case by case basis.

5. Other - Clarification on what Kyle's position will be was asked.

Motion to adjourn: Made by: Kimberly LaTourette

Seconded by: Samantha Mannion

Recording of vote: All in favor

Meeting adjourned at: 6:27 p.m.