

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: 8/4/22 Minutes submitted by: Kimberly LaTourette
Members present: Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Stephanie Strazza
Member absent:
Other attendees: Ken Craw, Katherine Matz, Melissa Busnel, Tim Blair, Amy Johnson
Place of meeting: New Fairfield Community Room

Stephanie Strazza called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 7, 2022

Motion: To approve the minutes of the April 7, 2022, meeting

Made by: Ed Sbordone

Seconded by: Stephanie Strazza

Recording of Vote: All in favor

III. ACTION ITEMS - none

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. PPS Staffing Elementary and ILS - Katherine Matz and Melissa Busnel, as well as Dr. Craw, also joined in for the meeting. Stephanie wanted to make sure that our SPED teachers are not overloaded. We are aware of a staff member who was cut during the budget and asked about any new students needing services that we were not aware of. Katherine shared that we have not changed the structure at CONS and MHHS. An ILS position was added to the MS. One teacher was not sufficient at that school. We will have one ILS at Consolidated, two at MHHS, and then a suite at the High School. STRIDES will have one teacher and three job coaches. Melissa shared that we have a lot of applicants to fill para positions. We have 3 BCBA's in the district and we also added a speech pathologist. Katherine and Melissa have kept a close eye on service hours and added staff as needed. RBT's (Registered Behavior Technician) are also being hired.

ELC is being monitored closely, and we are right on the line for needing to open up another section. This will be discussed more at the regular meeting.

Stephanie asked about reading services at MHHS. Katherine said we have additional teachers certified in Wilson and have more that will be.

Ed asked about the contingency. Katherine said it has been \$125,000 and we have exhausted that.

Other areas that we monitor are services that are provided for hearing impaired/deaf. It has not gotten high enough to hire someone yet, but we will keep an eye on that. Another area is evaluators. We have had to contract out, if that is higher and we need a psychologist, they will ask. Samantha asked about transportation for the STRIDES program and staff possibly being licensed to drive.

V. OTHER – Ed Sbordone asked about the BOF meeting. He knows they got bumped and will be attending another meeting. Katherine is going to discuss the law, talk about out placements. The attorneys that spoke were not the best for educational standpoint. - We do not just ship kids out, their needs are always a priority. The attorneys stated that the schools that we place students are not vetted or appropriate for kids - that is false. We only place students in state approved

facilities and Katherine visits all of them at least once. Dr. Craw said that we may be looking to schedule a special meeting with both the BOE and BOF.

Motion to adjourn: Made by: Stephanie Strazza

Seconded by: Samantha Mannion

Recording of vote: All in favor

Meeting adjourned at: 6:56 p.m.