

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: 2/4/21 Minutes submitted by: Kimberly LaTourette
Members present: Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Stephanie Strazza
Member absent:
Other attendees: Patricia Cosentino, Katherine Matz, Melissa Busnel and Ed Sbordone
Meeting Access: SPED (2/4/21 at 6 p.m.) Web: <https://zoom.us/j/92525370388>
Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 925 2537 0388

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. December 3, 2020

Motion: To approve the minutes of the December 3, 2020, meeting

Made by: Kimberly LaTourette

Seconded by: Samantha Mannion

Recording of Vote: All in favor

III. ACTION ITEMS – none

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Transition Program - Update/Plans for Fall

M. Busnel attended a symposium and said they are putting together all of the pieces to our transition program. They are networking with other agencies to make sure we are not missing anything, and we are pulling together our own resources for families to access at any time. We are on track with where we want to be. This is year 3 of our 5-year track. It would be best for them to be off site, unless they will be coming back on campus to do some work.

Concerning transportation, we will be using our bus transportation and the Hart bus system will be part of travel training, and they would not need to coordinate that on their own.

It was asked if Naugatuck Valley has a mock apartment or anything to help with daily learning skills, for example washing machine, kitchen, etc. and answers to these questions will be researched.

Concerning job coaches, we will be using paraprofessionals and they will receive special training and materials, which are included in the budget. A separate job description was provided for the paraprofessionals, and we will be interviewing and hiring for those positions.

K. Matz said Naugatuck Valley would help find job sites, but we would be looking for off-site positions as well. We are also anticipating one student who would like to return to our program who has already spent a couple of years in another program. We need to account for everyone's needs. Students will be ready to join in the fall!

B. Change in Law: Students 17-22

K. Matz said that prior to this summer, the IDEA required services until the age of 21, eligible until the end of the school year. Now it is changed (with an appeal) that students are eligible through the age of 21 and exit at the age of 22. For this current school year, we did not have any surprise students. Next year's budget accounts for one student that would have exited this year but will be staying for another period of time. If we have any students coming into district after the age of 17 that has an IEP, we will provide them with services.

C. Reading Intervention/Scores: Discussion of Staffing (Coaches, Reading Specialists) Programs for Students with SLD and Test Scores Grades 3-12 in Comparison to Math -
Tabled to next meeting.

D. SLP Staff Update – MHHS

There is more work at MHHS than one person can do, so we look to our secondary SLPs to come down and either provide some service deliveries or evaluations, or a combo of the two. We made sure that all evaluations were accounted for and every student was covered. It was asked if hours will be able to be made up and it was explained that this is still ongoing. Some are being made up after school, and some will be done during the school day. Everything is on track until the end of the year - we have enough staffing at MHHS to cover SLP services.

E. Special Education Parent Teacher Association - SEPTA

The paperwork has been completed and is ready for submission. There is an application process you have to go through with the state and if you are registered, you do get money from the state. SEPTA operates a lot like the PTO. There is a form the district needs to complete to acknowledge the SEPTA. We could have one in just one school or all four schools. Each would need a SEPTA President, Co-President, Secretary and Treasurer. We need four parents to step up and do this. Each school SEPTA would have its own bank account with forms filed quarterly. It was suggested that a SEPTA start at Consolidated or MHHS with the hope that those parents will move up the grades. We are sending home an email to SPED parents and offering a virtual workshop to get information out to them was discussed. It asks what type of activities the SEPTA would like to run. The benefits to forming a SEPTA include holding fundraising events, social activities, parent workshops/symposiums, informational sessions, and specialists coming in to speak. These could benefit parents/families and not just the students. K. Matz mentioned that it would be great to have a blog that is maintained. This could help get information out and provide the manpower to reach out and organize workshops and events. We need to find parents that may be interested in taking this on and a couple of names were mentioned. K. Matz will prepare an email to go out to SPED families, and S. Mannion, S. Strazza, and K. LaTourette volunteered to help with a video if needed.

V. OTHER

Motion to adjourn: Made by: Stephanie Strazza
Recording of vote: All in favor

Seconded by: Kimberly LaTourette
Meeting adjourned at: 6:47 p.m.