

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: 10/6/22 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 6:15 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. August 4, 2022

Motion: To approve the minutes of the August 4, 2022, meeting

Made by: Samantha Mannion

Seconded by: Stephanie Strazza

Recording of Vote: All in favor

III. ACTION ITEMS - none

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Special Education Update - Katherine Matz and Melissa Busnel provided a couple of updates. We have had an increase in the number of identified students. We had seen this prior to COVID (similar to the state trend), and it has continued to escalate. This impacts our SPED system and processes. The number of PPT meetings and referrals has increased. We have increased the number of direct providers to be able to service students. More staff is equal to more evaluations as well, and outplacements have increased. We have had an increase in BCBAs from two to three. Our initial referrals and outside evaluations have also increased.

There was a discussion about the families who have hired an advocate because the IEP and PPT process can be overwhelming for a variety of different ways. It may be beneficial for parents to have a workshop on how to read and process the IEP document. Salary, tuition, transportation, and outside evaluations and consultations are big drivers of the district costs. We are still in need of three to four paraprofessionals. There was discussion about trying to build programs within our district for some pockets of students with specific needs.

CT-SEDS - The state replaced the former IEP format to what it is now. They meant to make it simpler for people to look at and understand. The state created a document comparing the two documents as well. The state has not provided any training and there is not any window period for deadlines. The software has been glitchy and difficult at times, as well as time consuming for staff. PPS is asking families to be patient. New Fairfield requires the minutes section.

V. OTHER – none

Motion to adjourn: Made by: Stephanie Strazza

Seconded by: Samantha Mannion

Recording of vote: All in favor

Meeting adjourned at: 6:53 p.m.