

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: 4/2/20
Meeting Access: SPED (4/2 at 6:00 p.m.) Web: <https://zoom.us/j/242296787>
Dial In: (929)205-6099 Meeting ID: 242 296 787
Members present: Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Stephanie Strazza
Member absent:
Other attendees: Patricia Cosentino, Katherine Matz, Melissa Busnel, Ed Sbordone
Minutes submitted by: Kimberly LaTourette

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 6, 2020

Motion: To approve the minutes of the February 6, 2020, meeting

Made by: Kimberly LaTourette

Seconded by: Samantha Mannion

Recording of Vote: All in favor

III. ACTION ITEMS - none

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Distance Learning Update - Pat will have Julie Luby share an overview on distance learning at the regular BOE meeting. We are putting together information from surveys from students and staff. Everyone is stressed! It is difficult for parents of younger ones to be a teacher and work from home. We are revamping some of what we are doing. We do not want to add stress to our families.

Distance learning is scheduled for Monday through Thursday from 9-1, Friday is more of a catch up day - teachers to make calls and provide feedback.

Elementary school work is not mandatory. We ask that you do the best that you can and do what can work, and this is the same for Special Education students. They are not getting the support they need from home.

There is no official word yet, but we do not think we will be coming back this year. We will have to take a look at what happens next year when we return – reteach, revisit the curriculum from now.

Katherine Matz - Today is the 6th day that the district has provided distance learning. She asked that we have compassion and do the best that we can. Some of the technology is very new and has not been used before.

There is a methodical approach with live instruction.

The guidance from OSEP is we need to provide IEP instruction and services to do the best that is possible at this time. We do not wait until we have a perfect system in place, but get started with what we can. The target to roll out live is next week or the week after. We want to have realistic expectations for our kids and staff.

We have a passive permission form that will go out to families about participating in live instruction. You may opt out of those services; just email Katherine to let her know.

Samantha asked what are we doing about special services.

Katherine – Special Education teachers are working closely with general education teachers, designing individualized activities.

Social workers and psychologists are reaching out to families and developing activities for kids, providing resources to families live on the webpage. A new psychologist was hired at Consolidated School and she is helping out.

Speech/Language/OT/PT – There are activity calendars for something to do each day, including individualized work.

BCBA will start with families that are struggling with behavioral issues, including those families who need more coaching moving from highly structured to a home environment.

Nurses - starting to work with Tim Simpkins and with the town.

Paraprofessionals - supporting teachers, recording videos, read alouds, and assigned specific teachers/groups/grade levels.

Relying on families - anything you can do is great. Do what you can manage.

Katherine talked about PPTs. They are being postponed and will only be held if there is a specific need. Legal timelines may be missed and a meeting will not be held just to meet a timeline.

Katherine is in constant communication. If we do start holding them, they will be prioritized by need - annual reviews and transitions. We may use amendment process instead of PPT process to change IEPs. When we come back, will the IEP be ok the way it is written, what will need to be changed, did this student regress and need additional services? Providers have been asked to record where their learners were in March and compare to where they are when we return.

Jeanne Paquette - She thinks you have done a phenomenal job with distance learning. We are worlds away from where her district is right now. Her son misses everyone and the videos help!

There is positive feedback from Kim and Stephanie about how the district is doing. A parade will be planned for after Easter!

V. OTHER - Laura Consiglio – She is following some boards, and everyone is figuring everything out. Some people have had questions about the PPT, and are asking for clarification on amendment process versus PPT.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn:

Made by: Stephanie Strazza

Seconded by: Samantha Mannion

Recording of vote: All in favor

Meeting adjourned at: 6:40 p.m.