

**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: 6/5/25 Minutes submitted by: Susan Huwer  
Members present: Sue Huwer, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone  
Members absent:  
Other attendees: Monika Krepsztul  
Place of meeting: New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. April 3, 2025**

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of April 3, 2025, as presented

Made by: Samantha Mannion

Seconded by: Kim LaTourette

**Recording of vote:** All in favor

**III. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A. STRIDES Program Update** - Monika Krepsztul reported that there are now 13 worksites offering job and job-training opportunities to STRIDES students. Samantha expressed her wish that these opportunities meet the needs of all STRIDES students, both high and low performing. Monika advised there is coaching for students not able to articulate well, that jobs are adjusted to students' skill sets, and placements individualized. She said that parents are invited to be involved. She added that there will be a link soon on the New Fairfield School website for STRIDES. The STRIDES program is aligned with the New Fairfield Schools Calendar and sometimes there can be issues if occurrences in Danbury cause closures there while there are not closures in New Fairfield (i.e., recent Danbury water main break). STRIDES staffing next year will include a full and a part-time teacher, a nurse, and coaches (paraprofessionals).

**B. Autism Spectrum** - Coming next year there will be a program to improve learning for young children on the Autism Spectrum providing tools for teachers for lesson planning. This is not a curriculum but a special education resource for staff from which to pull lessons.

**C. ESY Update** - Per Monika, hiring is almost completed with a few openings remaining for paraeducators. The program, for Pre-K through 11<sup>th</sup> grade, will run for four weeks this summer, Monday through Thursday, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**D. PPS Summer Projects** - These projects include: a pilot program for Special Ed teachers to be implemented at the Middle School, "Accept, Identify, Move" (AIM Curriculum) to help Special Ed teachers prep for students' behavior issues in the classroom setting (i.e., aggression); A district-wide Suicide Threat Assessment Protocol will be written by our school psychiatrists, counselors and social workers, to replace the individualized protocols presently followed in each of our schools. It is essential that we have the same risk assessment at each building; There will be onboarding CT-SEDS training for new PPS staff. There was discussion on whether this could be accomplished by making a training video for new staff. Monika felt a video would not be sufficient and training would be better accomplished in person. She also discussed how some new hires do not need the training because of their prior experience while others need it very much; Finally, Health Guidelines and Procedures will be updated to ensure consistency and adherence to State requirements. Monika praised our new Lead Nurse Kim who excels at writing up procedures and makes sure they are in conformance with State guidelines.

**E. New PPS Offices** - Monika was pleased to report that the new PPS offices and conference room will be ready in September and will be a welcome improvement for families.

**IV. ACTION ITEMS** - none

**Motion to adjourn:** Made by: Kim LaTourette

**Seconded by:** Samantha Mannion

**Recording of vote:** All in favor

**Meeting adjourned at:** 6:54 p.m.