

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: 11/2/23 Minutes submitted by: Kimberly LaTourette
Members present: Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, Stephanie Strazza
Members absent:
Other attendees: Ken Crow, Maria Kennedy, Monika Krepsztul, Alex Lambert, Greg Flanagan
Place of meeting: New Fairfield Community Room, 3 Brush Hill Road, New Fairfield, CT 06812

Stephanie Strazza called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. June 14, 2023

Motion: To approve the minutes of June 14, 2023, as presented

Made by: Samantha Mannion

Seconded by: Kim LaTourette

Recording of vote: All in favor

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Transition Plan - Maria Kennedy, Monika Krepsztul (Secondary Supervisor), and Alex Lambert (Elementary Supervisor) were present. They are working on getting to know staff and families, and learning what we have in place and what we need. Maria is focusing on relationships with families; she wants them to know her and to know they can speak to her. She has conducted focus groups with service providers and plans to meet with the nurses. She will also meet with families, SPED teachers, and administrators. She has attended faculty meetings and team meetings. Alex mentioned trying to streamline transitions and communications between primary and secondary levels. All would like to get into the classrooms more often. Monika is excited to get everything aligned from grade to grade and building to building. Reading is a big focus for them. Dr. Crow mentioned that the Cabinet meets on Mondays and these three are members. They also meet right after the Cabinet meeting to discuss any issues or concerns and to work on what may be needed.

B. District Approaches to Address Reading -There was a brief discussion about the different reading programs that can be used and how they can be used to support students. They looked at what our teachers are trained in and at what levels they are. They are hoping to build upon that. They are choosing teachers carefully to participate in the training and certification. We are not expected to hear about our waiver until December.

C. STRIDES Program Update - Maria and Monika visited the program. There are currently six students enrolled. The space and location are great for students to attend work spaces and college level classes; however, the actual space in the classroom is not ideal for growth. There is not enough room for service providers to provide services in a separate location or for PPTs to take place.

D. Dual Instruction - Samantha asked to table this policy for this meeting so that we can figure out what New Fairfield is going to do to handle this situation (online courses). Maria mentioned that it is rare for a student to qualify for dual instruction, and it would be very individualized. The PPT would determine if a student would need dual instruction, as well as what that may look like. This can be discussed at the next policy meeting at the end of this month.

IV. ACTION ITEMS - none

V. OTHER - Samantha mentioned a concern that has been brought to her attention concerning the number of paras being certified in PMT. Maria, Monika, and Alex mentioned that training took place in August and more will occur in February. More refreshers are also being done in November. We have three PMT trainers within the district. Alex and Monika collected data from the paras to see when their last training took place and when it will need to be updated again. Stephanie asked some questions related to curriculum and tools that may be used. Kim asked how things are going with CT-SEDS.

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

Seconded by: Samantha Mannion
Meeting adjourned at: 6:42 p.m.