

**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: 4/1/21 Minutes submitted by: Samantha Mannion  
Members present: Samantha Mannion, Stephanie Strazza  
Member absent: Kimberly LaTourette  
Other attendees: Patricia Cosentino, Katherine Matz, Melissa Busnel, Greg Flanagan and Rick Regan  
Meeting Access: SPED (4/1/21 at 6 p.m.) Web: <https://zoom.us/j/98380916119>  
Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 983 8091 6119

Stephanie Strazza called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.  
Stephanie Strazza made a motion to elevate Rick Regan to member status, seconded by Samantha Mannion, all in favor.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. February 4, 2021

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the February 4, 2021, meeting

Made by: Stephanie Strazza

Seconded by: Samantha Mannion

**Recording of Vote:** All in favor

**III. ACTION ITEMS – none**

**IV. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A. Transition Update** - Melissa Busnel met with Dean at NVCC to discuss getting the space ready. Discussions were very productive, and things are well on their way! We will be interviewing for the teacher position over the next week, and paraprofessional positions will also be posted shortly.

**B. Early Learning Center (ELC) Update** - The budget process has put a lot of things on hold. Decisions are still being made concerning reduction in force. Because of this, Pat Cosentino really does not have an update on ELC. It is still currently the three classrooms. She is unable to make any specific determinations at this time. Melissa has sent out registration information to ELC parents to gauge enrollment. Pat Cosentino feels that staffing levels are appropriate at this time. She is disappointed that the Board of Finance was not more definitive this week, because she really does not have the information she needs to even think about making any changes. Stephanie asked about grant funding, and whether those funds could be used to staff for an additional teachers/staff in ELC if we get more students that need services. Pat cautioned we need to be very sure we use that money appropriately and stated that we have greater needs than expanding ELC for non-disabled children. Katherine stated that we typically have 3-4 children come in as "walk-in" referrals during the year. Right now, we are holding seats for that contingency (although the number of seats held are flexible) and trying to anticipate for that.

**C. Extended School Year (ESY)** - All the postings for ESY were just listed. ESY session is scheduled for July 6-August 5 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Families will have the opt-in option for remote learners. Greg Flanagan asked about where students transitioning between schools will be attending ESY. Melissa Busnel stated that is not decided yet, because of the construction. However, there will be transition activities planned for students to acclimate them to school ahead of time. Pat Cosentino said there will also be summer school in August for regular education students that will be in-person only, not just "skill and drill," but some "fun stuff" as well. Greg

Flanagan asked if there is some way to ensure teachers and staff are experienced in working with the specific grade level of students in ESY. Katherine Matz responded that we have to work with the pool of people that apply, so that may not always be possible.

**D. Reading/Intervention** - It is more appropriate for this agenda item to be discussed and data to be reviewed at a Curriculum Subcommittee meeting; therefore, there was no further discussion on this matter.

**E. Future Agenda Item - Dyslexia Screening** - This will be put on the next agenda for discussion/presentation.

## **V. OTHER**

**Motion to adjourn:** Made by: Stephanie Strazza

Seconded by: Rick Regan

**Recording of vote:** All in favor

Meeting adjourned at: 6:29 p.m.