

BOARD OF EDUCATION, NEW FAIRFIELD, CT
Special Education Ad Hoc Subcommittee Meeting

Name of Subcommittee: Special Education Ad Hoc Meeting type: Special
Date of Meeting: 8/13/20 Minutes submitted by: Kimberly LaTourette
Members present: Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Stephanie Strazza
Member absent:
Other attendees: Patricia Cosentino, Katherine Matz, Melissa Busnel, Ed Sbordone, Greg Flanagan and Rick Regan
Meeting Access: SPED (8/13 at 6:00 p.m.) Web: <https://zoom.us/j/92826058757>
Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 928 2605 8757

Stephanie Strazza called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 2, 2020

Motion: To approve the minutes of the April 2, 2020, meeting

Made by: Kimberly LaTourette

Seconded by: Samantha Mannion

Recording of Vote: All in favor

III. ACTION ITEMS - none

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Pupil Personnel Services Reopening Plans

Katherine Matz and Melissa Busnel presented the PPS Reopening Plans. Parents are encouraged to reach out to Katherine or Melissa if their questions are not answered tonight.

1) Public Health and Safety - Mitigation strategies that we are using in the community will be effective at school as well. That is why we are able to return safely and we want that to continue. The NF Health Director has approved our plan. We have to keep in mind that it may change. Masks - They are required for all students. Parent Workshop are next week on tips to help your child wear their mask for a longer period of time.

ESY – ESY was virtual. Some families came in on a case by case basis, and appropriate strategies and guidelines were followed. By the end of the 5 weeks, all students were wearing a mask for at least part of the day and they practiced social distancing.

Close Proximity – Six feet from someone for 15 minutes or more. Our staff may need to be close to students, with appropriate PPE worn at all times.

Different levels of PPE - Isolation Room, Common Areas, Classrooms and Offices, Close Contact with students who cannot wear a mask.

2) Flexibility and Community - This will be a different year and we need to be flexible. All are coming back since being home since March, and many students have lost skills and will need to adjust to the new routine.

Transportation – We are trying to reduce the number of students on each bus. If you can bring your student to/from school, that is suggested.

3) Special Ed is individualized.

Implementation Plan - IEPs are written for fully in-school instruction. Some services may need to be implemented differently. Case managers and families will be part of the conversation before any change is made. If a parent disagrees with the implementation plan, this document should be collaborative. If it is not, then parents or the case manager can contact Katherine Matz or Melissa Busnel and go back to a PPT if needed. If a family opts for the remote learning option

while full instruction is being offered, the service provider and the family member can talk and figure out what may work best for the child – for example: A 30 minute zoom is too long, they can talk and decide what may be better . . . 15 minute phone call, work sent home, etc.

This plan is here to document the changes that are being made to an IEP.

B. PPTs/IEPs

PPTs will take place over Zoom (consider if they are necessary) only if the IEP needs to be discussed/revised. Amendments can be used if staff and family agree. Adjustments can be documented on the implementation plan without a PPT.

PPTs and Evaluations will be prioritized - Referrals from Birth to Three, Initial Referrals, Transition Planning, Developmental Delays, Triennial Review, Annual Review. If a family would like a PPT but does not fall within these categories, they can still make amendments. You will not have to wait for "your turn in line." We will not let paperwork get in the way of what your child needs. Just because it is not in an IEP does not mean we are not going to do it.

Evaluations - Many tests must be conducted in person and there is no way around it. They will not produce valid results unless given this way; however, there are some evaluations that can be done remotely. PPS has purchased online versions of some of the rating scales so that they do not need to have a paper copy.

C. Remote Learning for Students with IEPs

This is for students in Plan A who are choosing to do remote learning. Every student will have a schedule, as though they are in person. Zoom schedule to receive instruction for whole group, services, Room and Zoom.

D. In-Person Instruction for Students with IEPs

Decisions are made on an individual basis.

SEL and Well-being – The district has a committee working on just this. Part of the parent survey is screening for some of this and the staff is working on this in each building.

Push In/Pull Out - In order to maintain cohorting, we are going to attempt push in whenever possible or appropriate. Push in is direct and within the general education classroom. It may look like a "station" or over Zoom with small groups of children.

Pull Out - Direct and takes place in another setting. Service providers will provide instruction.

Preschool/ELC – September 14th is first day, and each class is a cohort.

Physical distancing and mask wearing requirements are relaxed, and we will help students wear a mask. Stations and materials have to be washable and sanitized and will be more spread out.

Whole class activities will be done together, but the district purchased yoga mats so that they have their own space.

K-8 - Each class is a cohort. SPED teachers will be assigned to a grade level, with push in whenever possible and pull out will continue when needed. Case managers and families will work together. Some students may be on a Zoom with a teacher who is in another room with students.

Page 11 - "Setting is Flexible" - push in or pull out, may be built in already,

9-12 - Cohorting is not as feasible. Course schedules have been built including their IEP services.

Changes to the building schedule may have an impact of the IEP and will be documented on the implementation plan.

V. OTHER - Suggestions for Questions/Communication - Link to Parent Survey from the webinar invite is still live. Parents can submit questions there, call the PPS Office or email Katherine Matz or Melissa Busnel.

Motion to adjourn: Made by: Stephanie Strazza

Seconded by: Samantha Mannion

Recording of vote: All in favor

Meeting adjourned at: 6:54 p.m.