

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: 6/14/23 Minutes submitted by: Kimberly LaTourette
Members present: Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Stephanie Strazza
Member absent: Ed Sbordone
Other attendees: Ken Craw, Katherine Matz, Dominic Cipollone
Place of meeting: Meeting Access: Special Education Ad Hoc Subcommittee (6/14/23 at 6:30 p.m.) Web: <https://zoom.us/j/94422663202> Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 944 2266 3202

Stephanie Strazza called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. December 1, 2022 – approved by consensus

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. SPED Supervisor Update - Dr. Craw shared that interviews have been concluded for the new supervisor position. There were six initial interviews, and three candidates were moved on to a committee that met this past Monday. There were BOE members, Central Office staff, building administrators, teachers, parents, and related services on the committee. Two candidates have been moved forward. Dr. Craw is in the process of making a final decision. He anticipates having an announcement fairly soon. We want to make sure that we make the right choice and have the right fit for our district and community.

IV. INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS

A. PPS SPED Leadership Structure - Dr. Craw provided an update on the PPS SPED leadership structure. He and Katherine Matz explained the structure that would better meet the needs and conditions that we have right now in order to meet the needs of our students. We are servicing more students, have an increased number of PPTs, and have had an increase in referrals. We know that our administrators and teachers have seen students with more needs and more complicated needs. We currently have a director, a supervisor, and a PPS department chair who is also a psychologist. The department chair does not have the authority of a supervisor, and we do need this for our model to function better. When Katherine was just hired, we did have two supervisors. Work with Pre-K through transition students was able to be done more consistently. Melissa Busnel is our current supervisor, who has spent most of her time at the Pre-K to 5 level due to the attention that is needed at that level. Dr. Craw mentioned that we are very conscious about staying within our budget, and we will be able to do that with two supervisor positions that will be 11 months. We will stay cost neutral and also be able to focus at the primary and secondary level. Both supervisors will also have authority to meet the needs of that role. Kim asked questions about department chair positions in the past, as well as the role of each school's psychologists and our use of outside consultants. Katherine believes that we have enough SPED teachers to complete the academic evaluations. Ken did share that there was one SPED teacher in our budget that was cut, and we can take a close look at that.

V. OTHER – none

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

Seconded by: Kimberly LaTourette
Meeting adjourned at: 6:56 p.m.