

**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: 8/5/21 Minutes submitted by: Kimberly LaTourette  
Members present: Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Stephanie Strazza  
Member absent:  
Other attendees: Patricia Cosentino, Katherine Matz, Melissa Busnel, Rick Regan, Ed Sbordone  
Meeting Access: SPED (8/5/21 at 6 p.m.) Web: <https://zoom.us/j/91232608077>  
Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 912 3260 8077

Stephanie Strazza called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. April 1, 2021

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the April 1, 2021, meeting

Made by: Kimberly LaTourette

Seconded by: Samantha Mannion

**Recording of Vote:** All in favor

**III. ACTION ITEMS - none**

**IV. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A. Transition Program (STRIDES) Update** - Katherine Matz and Melissa Busnel provided an update. We are looking at an alternate space to provide this program. The new location is still in Danbury. Naugatuck said they may not have the space due to enrollment of their students. It looks like students will begin in the EdAdvance property. It is a large conference room and then set up like offices. It can be set up like a classroom setting. We hope new space is approved soon. Transportation will still be public transportation. Travel training will occur for the students and staff.

**B. Programming and Staff Updates** - We have open SPED positions at CONS, MHHS, and one at the HS. We had interviews today and will be recommending people for hire. We are trying to move on them quickly. We hired two new teachers at the MS. The teacher for ILS, who has been a para in NF for many years, is fully certified, and we are excited to have her. The other new hire will be running a classroom similar to life skills, but with students that struggle with behavioral and emotional issues. The BCBA and social worker will be working closely with them. The SPED coach position is part of the grant, and it is something we have not had before. A job description was posted based on district needs and is similar to an academic coach - sometimes more procedural and paperwork, IEP writing, PPT planning. Our candidate had been a SPED teacher at the high school and has finished her administrative certification. She will only coach, not perform any evaluations of staff. Melissa Busnel said that they are hoping to offer more workshops this year so that PPTs are not so stressful, everything is transparent, and everyone knows what to expect.

**C. ESY Update** - ESY was in person, which was great! Today was the last day and was very successful. Students and teachers did a great job. Stephanie asked if there was some confusion about the hours that some students were supposed to be in school. The number of days and hours each student needed to be in school was dependent on the child's IEP.

**V. OTHER**

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

Seconded by: Samantha Mannion

**Recording of vote:** All in favor

Meeting adjourned at: 6:30 p.m.