

**Devising Seminar Task Force Meeting Minutes
GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

DATE: 11-18-2019

PLACE: Havemeyer Building, 290 Greenwich Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830
Staff Development Room

ATTENDANCE:

BOE Administration:

Toni Jones, Supt.

Ann Carabillo, Deputy Supt.

Mary P. Forde, Chief Pupil Services

Community Partners:

Alan Barry, Human Services

Cricket Dymond, PTAC President

Luis Velazquez , Abilis

Parents

Patricia Estafano

Jennifer Kutai

Audra O'Donovan

Ann Ksiazak

Staff

Suzanne Coyne AP WMS

Gillian Thompson, Spec Ed Teacher, GHS

Cindy Boucard, Spec Ed Teacher, NL

Vikki Cappiali, NSS, Regular Education Kindergarten

Jessica McEvily, Psychologist

1. Meeting Opening

Call to Order – 6:00 pm

2. Committee Group Introductions

Background of the Devising Process

Member Introductions

3. Setting Group Norms

Communicate clearly and listen carefully

Respect others and their views

Ask and welcome questions for clarification

Listen and consider the ideas and opinions of others

Focus on processes, not people

Mute cell phones

Honor time limits and stay on tasks

Practice and request civility

Respect Individuals in the room
Agree: Unanimous

4. Discussing Interventions

Strengths: Trained in PBIS, collaborative, shared responsibility, strong external partners
Challenges: Length of intervention, behaviors not addressed, math interventions, lack of understanding of the entire process for families

5. Discussing Evaluation/Assessment/ PPT Meetings

Strengths: Competent evaluation team, quality communication before results and with results, thorough evaluations, personalized evaluations, good communication among PPT teams, parent attendance and student attendance at meeting, bilingual evaluations, multiple assessment tools, Strong professional development on a variety of assessment tools, continuity of elementary to middle schools/ transition meetings,

Challenges: Inconsistencies across schools regarding the PPT process, inconsistencies among administrators on the knowledge base of special education, some administrators have a lack of understanding with special education law,

The systems in place within the school and utilizing the specific strengths of individual educators, such as literacy specialist... training staff to meet the specific needs of the child

Time is a challenge , sharing results in a timely manner, recommendations to be included in the evaluation report, the evaluators to be part of the team in making recommendations, in the PPT parents feel the team is hesitant to make changes with the draft IEP, schools don't always make the call home 3 days before the meeting, not always producing documents in different languages ahead of time, IEP is not "Individualized" for the student, scheduling is a challenge for assessments/team meetings/PPT's,

6. Implementation of the IEP Document

Strengths: good resources, strong program options, good system in place for sharing IEP document for people that are implementing, knowledgeable staff, flexibility in revising IEP's as necessary, system itself is strong and meetings can happen when requested, commenting on progress codes is helpful to families, partnering with community providers, teacher pushing into the classroom providing more independence in upper elementary during IEP implementation, inclusion, flexible for children who need it, proactive, no lack of communication,

Challenges: parents don't have a clear understanding of how assessments are utilized to measure progress of IEP implementation, lack of understanding of goals progress and district testing and state testing, growth vs. scores, no self-contained programs for children with autism, lack of addressing sensory and social skills for children on the autism spectrum, lack of education and understanding of the needs of students with special needs, lack of training for understanding autism, space and setting issues in the schools, groupings may not be cohesive due to a wide variety of special needs in the "small group"

Homogeneous vs. heterogeneous grouping, push-in/ pull-out options and lack of understanding, looking at social implications equally with academic,

7. Dimensions of Success

Dimensions of success: relationships, process, results (Takes all 3 from the group to work well together).
Most individuals are stronger in 1 or 2 of the dimensions.

8. Next Steps

Consultants will write up the input notes from this meeting.

Official minutes will be sent out to the group for approval and then posted on the GPS website

Anonymous interviews: will take place in January

Next meeting: February 19, 2020

March 25- Devising Solutions will begin

7. Adjournment

Meeting ended at 9:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Toni Jones, Superintendent