

Greenwich Special Education Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE: 10-20-2020

PLACE: Virtual Meeting

ATTENDANCE:

Greenwich SEAC Board Members:

Caroline Lerum
Audra O'Donovan
Jennifer Kutai
Katie Bistran
Jennifer Donat
Jennifer DiCarlo
Danielle Green
Virginia Plath-Kelly
Kathy Walker
Genice Mark
Donald McGuire
Dr. Michael-Joseph Mercanti-Anthony
Erin Montague
Katie Nogaki
Kimberly O'Donell
Sarah Obuchowski
Leah Thornton
Patricia Minicozzi
Dawn Zimmerman

Alternates:

Andrea Cosby (Alternate)
Courtney Powers (Alternate)
Elizabeth Forger (Alternate)

CPAC (Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center):

Lynn Rule

BOE Members:

Karen Kowalski

BOE Administration:

Dr. Toni Jones
Mary Forde

1. Meeting Opening

Call to Order – 6:35PM

2. Introductions of Alternates

Alternates introduced themselves:

- Beth Forger
- Andrea Cosby
- Courtney Powers

3. Discussion of Bylaws

Article IV, Section 1-a: Strike “both” (KW)

Article V-4: Add attendance clause “Any SEAC board member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings or fails to attend fifty percent of all meetings during any calendar year shall be referred to the executive committee for review.” (CL)

Article VII, Section 1-a: Discussed Board Membership. Council discussed agreed to revert back to “Thirteen (13) parents or guardians who are eligible general members.”

Article VIII: Discussion of a two-step process was suggested whereby the Board would review and then the General Membership would vote. It was clarified that General Members do not have voting powers and Article VIII did not change.

Discussion of which SEAC members are voting members and which are not (ie ex-officio members). Council discussed that it is accurately reflected in ARTICLE VI: QUORUM AND VOTING PROCEDURES.

Dawn Zimmerman moved to approve the bylaws. The motion was seconded by Donald McGuire. The Council voted 18 in favor, none opposed.

4. Discussion of Webinar

Ms. Lerum discussed the opportunity of Dr. Ross Greene hosting a webinar for GPS families, staff members and community members regarding his Collaborative and Proactive Solutions Model.

Dr. Mercanti-Anthony asked if his model would align with Greenwich Public School’s current behavioral practices.

Ms. Obuchowski stated it would align with PBIS.

Ms. Forger agreed with Ms. Obuchowshi and volunteered to help to assure alignment with current practices/language to ensure consistency for all.

Dr. Jones stated it would be appropriate but stated logistics would need to be discussed.

Audra O'Donovan motioned to approve Dr. Greene as a webinar host. This was seconded by Katie Bistran. The Council voted 18 in favor, none opposed.

5. Next Steps

Ms. Lerum to follow up with Dr. Greene and coordinate with GPS administration.

5. Adjournment

Meeting ended at 7:22 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Katie Bistran