

Greenwich Special Education Advisory Council

Minutes

January 11, 2021

Google Meets 6:30PM

A. Attendance: Robyn Baldwin, Katie Bistran, Andi Cosby, Jennifer Donat, Jenn Dunn, Lindsey Eisenstein, Elizabeth Forger, Karen Hirsch, Dr. Stacey Hiligenthaler, Danielle Jacobs, Jennifer Kutai, Caroline Lerum, Lori Mancini, Kiera McGill, Patricia Minicozzi, Erin Montague, Naomi Nova, Audra O'Donovan, Virginia Plath-Kelly, Kathy Walker, Dawn Zimmerman

B. Opening Remarks from Chairperson:

- Dawn Zimmerman resigned as Chair.
- Caroline Lerum offered to step up from Vice Chair to Chair (Danielle Jacobs motioned, this was seconded by ?).
- Naomi Nova volunteered to step into Vice Chair role. (Kathy Walker motioned, this was seconded by ?).
- Caroline Lerum is the Chair for the remainder of the school year and Naomi Nova is Vice Chair.

C. Introduction of New SEAC Members:

- Lindsey Eisenstein is filling the administrator voting roll (Assistant Principal, New Lebanon)
- Jennifer Dunn is filling the alternate educator non-voting roll (Teacher at North Mianus)
- Dana Preston is filling an alternate parent non-voting roll
- Bruce Mcleanan is filling as the community member voting roll.

D. Public Comment: None

E. Approval of Meeting Minutes 11/9/21:

- Edits- Update Danielle Jacobs name, add Katie Bistran to attendees
- Motion to approve with edits by Lindsey Einstein, second by Elizabeth Forger

F. Remarks and Updates from Superintendent:

- Dr. Jones was not able to attend

G. Remarks and Updates from Chief Officer of Special Education and Student Supports:

- Staff is working hard to provide SpEd for those students quarantining
- Training today on the new CT state-wide IEP (first of 8 trainings) for teachers and administrators
- Parent training for IEP is coming
- New IEP form is much more intuitive and prompts staff on what to fill in
 - District will start implementing 7/1 on a rolling basis as PPT's are held, existing past IEP's will still be valid and implemented until the child's next annual PPT
 - A sample draft is available – Beth Forger will share
 - This summer in a train the trainer format 2 general ed staff will be trained, and they will bring that knowledge back to their building

- This Friday is professional development
 - Paras and SpEd teachers doing their 3rd and final UDL (Universal Design for Learning) training
 - Following UDL workshop walk throughs with each administrator to access their schools situation
 - Additional training on behavior and assistive technology
- Parent Questionnaire open for another week for parent seminar topics
- ESY (Extended School Year) planning has started, as well as planning for the 22-23 school year
- Staff attending OG trainings on ongoing basis as spots are available
- Building based literacy program training are being organized
- Additional other trainings from Aspire, Linda Moodbell, and some other varieties of trainings are being looked into to give a greater variety of resources available
- Looking forward want to have the most qualified staff person provide an accommodation, not just the “assigned” person for that child
- Hard balance, don’t want to pull too many teachers for trainings at once and risk not being able to service the kids in schools
- We can ask Dr. H what trainings a school has and she does keep track of that

H. Updates from Subcommittees Chairs:

- Enrichment
 - Jenni Reynolds shared a list of potential enrichment parent programs to Caroline, she will circulate this.
 - Will need to decide which we will do and then find speakers
 - Karen Hirsch will connect with Jenni Reynolds about recommendations of speakers from past years
 - Beth Forger emphasized using the expertise within the district, could go a long way for staff moral within the district
 - There use to be a Saturday half day family training with several options of speakers to attend and then one Key Note speaker that the district pays for – could be nice to bring back for parents to connect with other parents and also parents with staff in a nice community format
 - Use to be at Cos Cob or the HS in the fall and child care and snacks were provided
 - Nominating
 - Keeping the lottery format
 - IEP and 504 implementation
 - Everyone is coming together for sub-committee very nicely
 - Started to discuss key topics
 - Effective and consistent facilitation
 - Virtual- some like it, some don’t
 - Staffing and Specialization Decisions
- I. Action Plan Updates:**
- a. Staffing- monthly caseload watch
 - b. Full day professional learning needs-

- i. 2 hour blocks 8:30am-3:30pm
- ii. Karen Vitti is organizing
- c. 8 week long IEP training has started

J. Adjournment:

- Next SEAC Meeting is March 8th at 6:30pm
- Executive Committee will meet with Dr. H before the next meeting
- IEP sub-committee will meet January 24th at 6:30pm
- BOE Action Plan next meeting is in February
- Sub-Committee chairs please send your meeting dates to Caroline Lerum