

Greenwich Special Education Advisory Council

Minutes March 8, 2022, Google Meets 6:30PM

A. Attendance: Robyn Baldwin, Abby Anders, Bruce Maclennan, Jennifer Donat, Daria Pestone, Jenn Dunn, Lindsey Eisenstein, Elizabeth Forger, Karen Hirsch, Dr. Stacey Heiligenthaler, Danielle Jacobs, Jennifer Kutai, Caroline Lerum, Patricia Minicozzi, Erin Montague, Audra O'Donovan, Kathy Walker, Dawn Zimmerman, Courtney Powers, Don McGuire, Genice Mark

B. Opening Remarks from Chairperson:

- A vote was unable to be recorded from the January 11, 2022 meeting so another vote was taken.
- Caroline Lerum offered to step up from Vice Chair to Chair (Dawn Zimmerman motioned, this was seconded by Jennifer Kutai).
- Naomi Nova volunteered to step into Vice Chair role. (Kathy Walker motioned, this was seconded by Abby Anders).
- Caroline Lerum is the Chair for the remainder of the school year and Naomi Nova is Vice Chair.

C. Remarks and Updates from Superintendent:

- Dr. Jones was not able to attend.

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

- Bridging sessions took place for PreK-K
- Presentations took place for 5th-6th grades and 8th-9th grades
- MTSS manual will be available in the Fall of 2022
- CSPE – Mondays 4-5 previews
- Julian Curtis starting PreK program this month
 - 1 section this year and next
- Discussion regarding the co-teaching program
 - Will be one Kindergarten and one 1st grade class at the same school.
 - The classroom will be comprised of both gen-ed and sp. Ed students
 - It is for students who require more intensive support.
- Discussion regarding the Unique Learner Program
 - For qualifying 3rd-5th graders
 - Qualifying students would be those who qualify for the CT alternative assessments.
 - Will be language based and focus on daily living skills

E. Comments from Listening Circle:

- A video from the Listening Circle was played for the Council members.

- Discussed raising awareness of Listening Circle by continuing to include information about the Listening Circle in the special education newsletter. Also, could include information at PPT meetings, especially to new parents.

F: Updates from Subcommittee Chairs:

- IEP/504 Subcommittee
 - Subcommittee currently drafting report -CL
- Eligibility Subcommittee
 - Subcommittee currently drafting report -JK
- Enrichment Subcommittee
 - Jenni Reynolds presented findings from the Enrichment Survey that was circulated to SEAC members. The survey asked members to decide what topic/speaker would be preferred for the Spring workshop.
 - The SEAC narrowed the list down to Executive Function/Working Memory (Dr. Lydia Soifer), Understanding UDL (Shelley Moore) or How to Manage Big Emotions in the Moment (Michelle Garcia Winner).
 - The SEAC decided that Dr. Soifer would be the best option as she has availability and is able to do a two-part series.
 - Jenni is to follow up with Dr. Soifer and secure exact dates.
 - The other topics can be explored for next year's workshops.

J. Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:16PM