

Greenwich Special Education Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2022

Google Meets Virtual Meeting 6:30PM

1) Attendance: (26) Annelise Hanshaw, Andi Cosby, Audra O'Donovan, Abigail Anders, Caroline Lerum, Courtney Powers, Daniele Jacobs, Daria Pestone, Dawn Zimmerman, Donald McGuire, Elizabeth Forger, Genice Mark, Jenni Reynolds, Jennifer Dunn, Jen Katai, Kathy Walker, Katie Bistran, Kimberly O'Donnell, Lindsey Eisenstein, Lori Mancini, Robyn Baldwin, Dr. Stacey Heiligenthaler, Dr. Toni Jones, Virginia Plath-Kelly

2) Welcome and Opening Remarks from Chairperson – Caroline Lerum called the meeting to order at 6:38pm

3) Public Comment

a) Caroline asked who seconded the vote to approve the minutes at the last meeting, it wasn't recorded. Abby Anders seconded.

4) Approval of Meeting Minutes from 1/11/22 and Approval of Meeting Minutes 3/8/22 – motion to approve by Elizabeth Forger, second by Robyn Baldwin, all in favor, none opposed

5) Remarks and updates from Superintendent – Dr. Toni Jones thanked the SEAC for their work.

6) Remarks and updates from Chief Officer of Special Education and Student Supports – Dr. Stacey Heiligenthaler shared that there has been a focus on transitions between schools, and they are conducting a training in the Lindamood Bell Program for administrators and several staff per school. Extended School Year has been planned and communications have gone out to families.

7) Vote on Next Year's Meeting Schedule

a) SEAC Meeting Schedule for 2022-2023 School Year all at 6:30pm

i) September 20, 2022

ii) November 15, 2022

iii) January 10, 2023

iv) March 7, 2023

v) May 16, 2023

(1) Meetings will possibly be in person and online at New Lebanon School. The dates are posted in the annual report.

(2) Motioned to approve meeting dates, time and location by Abby Anders, second by Robyn Baldwin, all in favor, none opposed

8) Discuss Board Terms and Nominating Process

a) Agreement of members to renew terms

i) Patricia Minicozzi – Not on the call, but Caroline Lerum will contact

- ii) Jen Kutai – term up ‘23
- iii) Andi Cosby – stay on
- iv) Katie Bistian – rolling off
- v) Genice Mark – rolling off
- vi) Don McGuire – stay on as community connector
- vii) Kathy Walker – stay on
- viii) Bruce MacLennan – term up ‘23
- ix) Abby Anders – stay on
- x) Elizabeth Forger – stay on
- xi) Ginger Plath-Kelly – stay on
- xii) Erin Montague – Caroline Lerum will check
- xiii) Jennifer Donat – term up ‘23
- xiv) Dawn Zimmerman – term up ‘23
- xv) Caroline Lerum – stay on
- xvi) Audra O’Donovan – stay on
- xvii) Kim O’Donnell – stay on as alternate
- xviii) Daria Prestone – term up ‘23
- xix) Jennifer Dunn – term up ‘23
- xx) Courtney Powers – stay on

9) Election of Executive Committee and Officers

- a) Chair – Motioned for Jenni Reynolds to be chair by Audra O’Donovan, second by Don McGuire, all in favor, no objection
- b) Vice-Chair – Motioned for Caroline Lehrum to be vice-chair by Jen Kutai, seconded by Andi Cosby, all in favor, no objection.
- c) Vice-Chair - Audra O’Donovan to be vice-chair by Jen Kutai, second by Kim O’Donnell, all in favor, no objection
- c) Reporting Secretary – Motioned for Jen Kutai to be secretary by Audra O’Donovan, second by Abby Anders, all in favor, no objection
- d) Corresponding Secretary – Motioned for Andi Cosby to be corresponding secretary by Jen Kutai, second by Lindsey Eisenstein, all in favor, no objection

10) Review Final Reports from Sub-Committees

- a) **Annual Report 2021-2022 Review**
 - i) Two drafts of the final report, nominating finalized in the second draft
 - ii) Annual Report has 2021-2022 repeated twice and needs to be edited to 2022-2023 meeting dates (clarified by Lindsey Eisenstein)
 - iii) PCG quotes teachers refusing to evaluate students because they are too backed up
 - (1) Change wording to not be negative to teachers, change teachers to administrators
 - (2) Change mention of green folder to Havemeyer

- (3) Child find refer for evaluation to GPS staff is “wait and see”
 - (a) Katie Bistrain asked for more transparency in this wording
 - (b) Don McGuire said detail of decision makers through the process. With child find, no decision maker, must go forward. Referral made, process starts and only parents can stop it.
- (4) Recommend page 5 of second draft, couple 2 with 5 and assess wording to reflect GPS staff, not just teacher
- (5) Number 3 add district and state assessments, remove STAR
- (6) Motion to approve report with these changes by Elizabeth Forger, second by Katie Bistrain, all in favor, none opposed

11) Reminders of Upcoming Events

- a) Board of Ed Meeting, Thursday, May 19th please do your best to attend in person or on zoom
- b) Spring Workshop with Dr. Lydia Soifer May 23rd or June 14th in person at GHS

12) Adjournment