

Greenwich Special Education Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2023

Zoom meeting, 6:30pm

A. Attendance

Jennifer Kutai, Jeannine Tanton, Daria Pestone, Jennifer Donat, Dawn Zimmerman, Racquel Sosa, Andi Cosby, Don McGuire, Beth Forger, Ginger Plath-Kelly, Maya Feldman, Abby Anders, Jenni Reynolds, Audra O'Donovan, Lindsey Eisenstein, Dr. Alina Boie, Daria Pestone, Dr. Stacey Heiligenthaler, Eugene Matejek, Heather Woodworth, Joe Baynes, John Hamel, Karen Hirsh, Lori Mancini, Pedro Campos, Suzanne Coyne, Priya Easwaran, Jennifer Dunn, Robin Leader

B. Welcome and Opening Remarks from Chairperson

- a. Great conversation with Enrichment last month - recording coming out. Enrichment links are now all up on the website.
- b. Although SEAC formed around the same time frame as the audit, we want to be sure it is known that we are going to continue to give feedback and work with the district to make improvements.
 - i. Some successes to date
 - 1. Referral to implementation now 98% in compliance
 - 2. Jenni is going to send out a bullet list of changes happening
- c. Coordinating with BOE liaison, will report at June BOE meeting

C. Public Comment - none

D. Approval of Meeting Minutes for 3/7/23 - Dawn Zimmerman motioned to approve, Abby Anders Second. Unanimous approval, will get those on the website this week.

E. Program Spotlight: Second Step

- a. Spotlight on Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) by Dr. Alina Boie, GPS Psychologist
 - i. What is Social-Emotional Learning Content
 - ii. Our Roles in Supporting SEL Schoolwide
 - 1. SEL Leadership Team - Lead and support schoolwide implementation planning and logistics.
 - 2. Lesson Instructors - Teach 20 weekly lessons, in order, one per week (15-30 min. each). Facilitate daily practice activities (5-10 min each). Reinforce and integrate common language and skills throughout the day.
 - 3. All Staff - Reinforce common language and skills in all areas of the school.
 - iii. Resources Available with our Schoolwide License
 - 1. Training resources, lesson materials and teaching support, leadership guidance, tools and checklists, media and resources to support skill development and reinforcement (songs, brain builders and mini-posters).
 - iv. Scope & Sequence - Elementary

1. Week 1-5 - Unit 1 Growth Mindset & Goal-Setting
2. Week 6-10 - Unit 2 Emotion Management
3. Week 11-15 - Unit 3 Empathy & Kindness
4. Week 16-20 - Unit 4 Problem-Solving
5. Grades 6-8 - 4 Units all Online
 - a. Mindsets and Goals
 - b. Recognizing Bullying and Harassment
 - c. Thoughts, Emotions, and Decisions
 - d. Managing Relationships, and Social Conflict

F. Remarks and Updates from Dr. Heiligenthaler

- a. Big Happenings of this School Year
 - i. Starting 2E manual - identifying templates, starting small committees in the Fall
 - ii. Ordering for additional reading materials for K-8 teachers. New materials from Lindamood-Bell, Foundations, Wilson, Spire, and PAF.
 - iii. Starting a construction project at Community Connections. Electrical work, plumbing, all to get a studio apartment type space for those students to practice life skills such as dish washing, laundry, etc.
 - iv. Professional Development for June 20th - co-teaching training, training in new Hagarty and Dibels. BOE is moving toward Dibels for progress monitoring.

G. Vote on Next Year's Meeting Schedule - Virginia Plath-Kelly motions to approve, Maya Feldman second, approved.

- a. 9/19/23 - 6:30pm
- b. 11/14/23 - 6:30pm
- c. 1/16/24 - 6:30pm
- d. 3/19/24 - 6:30pm
- e. 5/14/24 - 6:30pm

H. Discuss Membership Terms

- a. **Terms Expiring:** The following people will be finishing their service at the 6/19/23 meeting. Thank you for your service! You will be eligible to return to the council in the 2025-26 school year.
 - i. Bruce MacLennon - not present
 - ii. Kimberly O'Donnell - not present
- b. **Terms open to renewal:** The following people's current terms end 6/19/23, and have the option to renew for an additional 2 years.
 - i. Robyn Leader - willing to stay or go
 - ii. Jennifer Kutai - rolling off
 - iii. Jeannine Tanton - staying on
 - iv. Leah Thornton - not present
 - v. Daria Pestone - staying on
 - vi. Jennifer Dunn - staying on
 - vii. Courtney Powers - not present
 - viii. Jennifer Donat - staying on

- ix. Dawn Zimmerman - staying on

c. Terms continuing through 2023-2024 School Year

- i. Racquel Sosa
- ii. Andi Cosby
- iii. Kathy Walker
- iv. Don McGuire
- v. Beth Forger
- vi. Ginger Plath-Kelly
- vii. Maya Feldman
- viii. Abby Anders
- ix. Jenni Reynolds
- x. Audra O'Donovan

-Will reach out to the lottery and try to fill the spots before the end of the year. Pedro Campos will move up to a voting parent member.

I. Election of Executive Committee and Officers

- a. Chair Nominations - Jenni Reynolds is nominated by Dawn Zimmerman and Andi Cosby seconds.
- b. Vice-Chair Nominations - Dawn Zimmerman and Audra O'Donovan nominated by Jenni Reynolds and second by Maya Friedman.
- c. Recording Secretary Nominations - Andi Cosby nominated by Dawn Zimmerman, second by Audra O'Donovan.
- d. All unanimously approved

J. Review and Approval of Annual Report

- a. Behavior Subcommittee Report and Recommendations
- b. Consistency Subcommittee Report and Recommendations
- c. Enrichment Subcommittee Report and Recommendations
- d. Nominating Subcommittee Report
- e. Final Thoughts
- f. Abby Anders motioned to approve, Jeannine Tanton seconds, unanimously approved.

K. Adjournment at 7:36pm