



Board of Education Special Education Committee

April 16, 2026
 Time 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
 Board of Education Room
Minutes

Present: B. Bass, P. Sullivan-Nunes, S. Kaplan, S. Grosso, K. Slentz
The committee convened the meeting at 4:04 p.m.

- 1. **Framing the work** *Committee*
 - a. Review and approval of agenda
The committee approved the agenda.

- 2. **Updates and Recommendations** *Administration*
 - a. Student updates
 - i. Out of district for 2025-26 and 2026-27
 - ii. Proposed settlement agreement

S. Kaplan and S. Grosso updated the committee on the status of out-of-district placements, including the decreasing number that we have, and projections for possible placements in the coming year.

S. Kaplan and K. Slentz discussed the district’s proposed approach to a potential settlement agreement that they had reviewed with counsel. The committee supported the direction but requested that protections be put in place to avoid establishing precedent. The committee discussed the structure of our settlement agreements and the specific protections that are included.

- b. Referral status
S. Kaplan and S. Grosso updated the committee on the number of referrals for special education services. At this point in the year, staff and parents have submitted fifty-one referrals. This is an increase from prior years.

2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
30	40	28

S. Kaplan and S. Grosso noted that the district has experienced an increase in 504 referrals as well.

The committee discussed potential reasons for the increase, including the fact that we know more about our students now, based on the increase in reliable data that we have from our assessments, and the staff's increasing understanding of that data.

3. Discussion Items

- a. 2026-27 staffing
 - i. Speech and Language
 - ii. Special Education teachers at Springhurst
 - 1. ICT
 - 2. Special Class
 - iii. Faculty Leaves of Absence
 - 1. Special Education Teacher
 - 2. Social Worker
 - iv. Teaching Assistants

S. Kaplan and S. Grosso updated the committee on the overall hiring status in the department for full-time and leave-of-absence positions. The hiring processes are moving forward and should be completed by the end of the current school year.

- b. Student Profile Projections and Program Implications

S. Kaplan and S. Grosso discussed their observations of student and staff needs that are informing the district's planning for the coming years. These include:

- i. higher specialized instruction and management needs for incoming students;*
- ii. an increase in learning disabilities identification; and*
- iii. a professional learning focus on overall management and understanding neurodivergent students.*

The professional learning needs will be met through the district's partnership with New York University and the Program for Inclusion and Neurodiversity Education ([PINE](#)) program.

4. Next Meeting Date

Committee

- a. May 14, 2026

5. Adjourn

Committee

The committee adjourned the meeting at 5:06 p.m.