

Special Education Ad Hoc Committee
March 19, 2014, 5:30 pm – Meeting Minutes
Board of Education Offices

Minutes taken by Elizabeth Wesolowski. Meeting was a public session.

Introductions made by all committee members. A brief meet and greet was held from 5:00 to 5:30 pm for parents to meet the three administrative members of the Ad Hoc Committee: Mrs. Bender, Mrs. Simonetti, and Ms. Wesolowski.

Meeting's agenda was distributed and reviewed. Mrs. Bender provided a description for the committee of the structure and design of the Department of Instruction and Support Services. Discussion of the following items ensued:

- Purpose and Goals of this Committee
 - Group discussed that a purpose of this committee is to foster communication between parents, families, and the school district regarding issues related to educating students with disabilities. In addition, to share information about resources available to school districts, students, and parents.
 - Further, the group agreed that another purpose of this committee is to discuss design of programs and initiatives for students with disabilities, and elicit feedback.
 - All acknowledged that this forum is not one for the discussion of individual student or family issues.
- Members' Roles
 - Dissemination of Information: for parent committee members to act as liaisons for their local school buildings, available to all parents as a committee representative.
 - This role also includes gathering information from and disseminating committee information to parents who are interested in receiving it at the local school building.
 - Provide administrative committee members with ideas for agenda items for committee meetings, as well as feedback on programmatic developments for students with disabilities.
- Other discussion items
 - The structure of local/regional SEPTAs (Special Education Parent Teacher Associations). Parent committee members said they would learn more about these groups. All understood that this Ad Hoc Committee would not be a SEPTA.
 - Parent commentary about articulation process for students from one school year to the next, and means in which that process can be as smooth as possible for students.
- Proposals for Future Agenda Items

- Preparation for Extended School Year services – how can we make this transition as seamless as possible for students?
- Committee members agreed to send administrative members any proposed agenda items via email in advance of the subsequent Ad Hoc Committee meeting.

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- Updates

- Support Services Website: there is a Special Education Department tab under the “Departments” tab . Currently, resources are available within that page, and there will be a page added for this Ad Hoc Committee.
- Preschool Typical Peer Applications – available on the district website within “Registration Information.”
- Transition Meetings – part of the annual review process, currently occurring.
- PHS Step Up Meeting – a great success, roughly 30 parents attended.

Upcoming Events

- SIS Step Up Meeting
 - Date TBD
- SHS Step Up Meeting
 - Date TBD
- Community Resources Meeting
Monday, March 24-6:30-8:30
- Information session on 504 plans and Accommodations at the College/University level with Debbie Fairchild from Southern Connecticut University – April 2, 2014, 6:30 pm at Shelton High School

Next meeting scheduled for May 1, 2014, 5:30 pm at the Board of Education Offices.