

(Draft) Minutes Special Education Committee Meeting

October 17, 2023.

4:00 PM Virtual

Present - Dr. Trim, Ms. Stafford, Ms. Perez, Ms. Meo, Ms. Silverstein, Ms. Dysher, and Ms. Bouknight

- Board Approval items for services were reviewed and discussed.
- Paraprofessional and teacher vacancies were discussed. The Special Education Team have an active search and are currently conducting interviews to fill open position for teachers and paraprofessional vacancies. There are 4 Paraprofessionals positions to be approved on the next Board agenda.
- During the pandemic there were students that did not receive the **ABA at-home compensatory services**. Parents and caregivers were contacted and offered the opportunity to receive make up hours. Some parents opted out. The services are currently being provided by Hand over Hand Agency.
- **Update Suzanne Olimpio**, presented to parents at the 10/23 SEPAC meeting. She will be making a presentation at a future board meeting.
- **Seclusion Room Report-** A discussion on Seclusion and Restraint, training provided to staff members, and the procedures utilized in the District were discussed. When a student is restrained, the staff member who restrains the student completes the mandated Student Safety Data System (SSDS) Restraint and Seclusion Report Form, and the building administrator uploads the form into Genesis. Currently, Ms. Dock reports all incidents to the state in December and June. From Sept 2023 to the present date, four incidents of restraint have been reported. Staff members needing Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) training have been identified and received the required training, which is also ongoing based on building and student needs. CPI training involves learning verbal de-escalation strategies and behavioral management techniques. Staff members are appropriately trained to address service students who may need to be physically restrained to prevent self-harm and harm to other students. Pupil Services is currently reviewing and

considering "Handle with Care" instead of CPI for de-escalation and behavior management training.

- **Transportation Update** The transportation department has contracted neighboring district and considered them for shared service. Most scheduling issues have been resolved with trip to curb for our in-district students. There is ongoing discussion with bus services for our out of district transportation services where there are delays in arrival/drop off
- **School Psychiatrist** We currently do not have a School Psychiatrist on staff. We currently use the Grace Medical Group for student evaluations. This service has been very costly, somewhere in the range of \$200K last year. It may be more cost effective for us to have a school psychiatrist on staff. Dr. Trim will be discussing this idea with Dr. Ponds.
- **Assistive Technology /Speech** We discussed the contract that we have with AT and will hire someone to assist districtwide as this will be more cost effective and beneficial to our student population.
- We reviewed the job description for a **Special Education District Team Leader**. This position is currently in the planning stage. The teacher leader would address concerns, coach, mentor and meet with the Pupil Services Team to bring consistency across the district. The proposal is to identify cluster teacher leaders for K-5, middle school and the High School.
- We discussed the **ESS and MCS programs** at Montclair High School. Referrals are being made and students who have been identified are receiving services. Any MHS parent that has a question or a concern can reach out to Ms. Meo at the High School.
- Our next meeting is scheduled for Tues 11/14/23 at 4pm virtual

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm