

Warwick Special Education Advisory Committee
Wednesday, February 11, 2015
Park School Library 7:00 pm
Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Mary Townsend, Jessica Schad, David Ghigliotty, Barbara Ghigliotty, Sharon Terzian, Becca Seamans, Cindy Roberts, Adrian Phillips, Tarin Byrne, Michelle Haley, Michael Matteson, Sandra Parrillo, Meghan MacKay, Beverly MacKay, Kathy Fielder, Caitlin Regan, Dr. Jennifer Connolly and Bethany Zawislak.

Jessica called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm and introductions were made. The minutes of the January 14, 2015 meeting were accepted.

Old Business:

Workshop – 2/4/15 – Dr. Lobato - Brothers, Sisters and Special Needs/Sib-link Program: This presentation was great as was her last workshop. Attendance was small, but all who were there commented on how much they learned. David commented on the value of her presentation! Excellent!

Other- Discussion regarding the lack of support from Special Educators in distributing our workshop flyers.

New Business:

Workshop – Attorney Kevin Nerney-March 25, 2015 - workshop/presentation regarding 'Estate Planning' will be held in the small auditorium at Veterans High School.

radKids Program – Officer Steve Lombardi needs assistance, help from trained Warwick Police officers. David Ghigliotty had signed up for a week long training that was cancelled due to weather events (with no notification). Jessica will continue to communicate with Officer Steve regarding progress.

March Fundraiser for Cerebral Palsy Awareness – there was ongoing discussion and we will continue to explore.

Other – “Doing it for Drew” fundraiser was a great time had by all and raised approximately \$10,000. These donations will be used towards the purchase of a wheelchair accessible vehicle/van. Mary and family thank all involved for their support.

School Committee Update: No committee member present. There was a brief discussion regarding school committee attendance, the RFP for consultant to determine maximum use and conditions of Warwick Public Schools buildings was awarded to SMMA. The School Committee expects a response by June 1, 2015. There was also brief discussion regarding the Superintendent interview process.

State Update: Sharon reported that Dr. Montanaro replaced Craig Stenning as Director of BHDDH. She also reported that CMS (Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services) is not currently parent friendly.

Director of Special Education Report: Dr. Connolly provided a presentation of PARCC. She spoke in depth regarding the PARCC test. She defined it as a universally designed assessment that gives the most students the most access. She also explained that the PARCC is grade specific whereas NECAP covers a grade span. PARCC comes with a 68 page manual that Dr. Connolly used to provide us with as much information as she could regarding the availability of accommodations. Her PowerPoint presentation showed a variety of samples of test pages and how these accommodations can be located by staff and students. Whatever is happening on a daily basis, ongoing instruction, whatever students are already doing, should help the IEP team to determine if a unique accommodation is needed. Paper based tests will continue to be made available in a paper-based format. Professional development is ongoing and most Special Educators have participated.

She advised parents to get on line and check it out at www.PARCCOnline.org and/or <http://practice.PARCC.testnav.com>. There are practice tests for students and parents and suggested that a lower grade level would be good for practice. She acknowledged the challenges and answered questions regarding opting out, and Alternate Assessment.

This committee appreciates Dr. Connolly's informative presentation! ☺

Membership: Michael Matteson and Sandra Parrillo will be presented to the School Committee at their next meeting.

Scheduling of Next Meeting Date: Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at 7:00 pm at the Administration Building in the School Committee room.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Townsend

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