

Warwick Special Education Advisory Committee  
Wednesday, May 13, 2015  
School Committee Room 7:00 pm  
Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Mary Townsend, Jessica Schad, Jeanne Miranda, Dayna Brassard, David Ghigliotty, Barbara Ghigliotty, Rachael Ghigliotty, Cindy Roberts, Gail Aldrich, Meghan MacKay, Caitlin Regan, Paula Regan, Keri Sangster, Sandra Parrillo, Dr. Jennifer Connolly, Sara Monaco, Michael Matteson, and Kristen Saunders.

Jessica called the meeting to order at 7:11 pm and introductions were made. Jessica welcomed Dayna Brassard, a senior from Pilgrim High School presenting to the committee her senior project on the topic of Autism. Dayna was accompanied by her mentor Jeanne Miranda, Special Educator, Pilgrim. Dayna provided the committee with a PowerPoint presentation based on her research and interviews with families. Congratulations to Dayna on a project well done! ☺

Jessica then welcomed Dr. Sara Monaco, RTE/Federal Program Coordinator, Warwick Public Schools. Sara introduced herself and detailed the many roles that fall into her position here in Warwick: Coordinator of RTI, Federal Programs Coordinator, (Title programs), Homeless Liaison working with our transitional advocate Carol Marginson to support our students. The topic of Social Skills was raised and addressed by Sara's presentation of PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports and/or Strategies). She also described in detail the tiers and the strategies and supports in place to provide students with all they need to learn and participate in their school community with consistency districtwide. Thank you Sara! ☺

Just a quick note that members of this committee continue to express concerns regarding the need to support our students in the continuing development of Social Skills.

The minutes of the March 11 and April 8, 2015 meetings were accepted with the addition of the attendance at the April 8, 2015 meeting.

**Old Business:**

radKIDS program (May 1 – June 19) – The program is up and running. We have 9 students that have attended accompanied by their parents. Officer Gilda and Officer Jim have done a good job in the early classes to engage the students and present the material.

Distribution of WSEAC event flyers - Of course this led into the discussion of distribution of flyers for our events as this is a continuing dilemma for this committee.

March Fundraiser for Cerebral Palsy Awareness – Although the committee raised \$400 to donate to Hasbro in memory of Anna Byrne, it seemed disappointing in comparison to a similar fundraising event in memory of another student not too long ago. There was encouraging discussion.

Special Education Advisory Network (SEAN) meeting (4-30-15) – Mary, Cindy and Sharon attended. The highlight of the evening was a presentation by the “Dream Team”, a group of high school students that support Dare to Dream held each year at URI. They each told their stories and spoke to all that Dare to Dream has meant to them and to others. There was also a brief presentation by the RI Disability Law Center encouraging local committees to spread the word that they are available to support families and would provide presentations upon request.

Best Buddies Friendship Walk (5-3-15) Johnston Memorial Park – Rachael updated the committee on this event, feeling that this location and the offerings did not live up to the expectations of those held in the past. She did say a good time was had by all. She also gave a beautiful and well received speech about Best Buddies at the walk! This committee is extremely proud of Rachael! ☺ As we are of all of our students who participate in our community! ☺

Safety Day at Fire Station (5-16-15) – This event has been scheduled for Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 – 4:00. We currently have 22 students and their families signed up. Looking forward to a great day!

**New Business:**

WSEAC minutes – brief discussion to be continued at our next meeting

**School Committee Update:** No member present. Barbara was appointed at the last meeting! ☺

**Director of Special Education Report:** (These notes are adapted or quoted from the Director of Special Education Report.)

“Please return ESY information as soon as possible.

We are completing our final round of testing – PARCC, NCSC, and NECAP, which have all gone very smoothly.

I urge you all to attend any of the upcoming SMMA workshops in order to receive information and provide input on the Master Plan for Warwick.”

There was brief discussion regarding the Director’s Report.

**State Update:** There was no report in Sharon’s absence.

**Scheduling of Next Meeting Date:** Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 10, 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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