



New Hope-Solebury School District
Special Education Committee Minutes
January 12, 2017—6:00PM
Upper Elementary School Library

Per Policy 006.2, all public meetings of the Board of School Directors, including committees, are audio recorded.

Attendance

- **School Board** – Jennifer Gormley (Chair)
- **Administration** – Dr. Steven Yanni, Charles Malone, Alyssa Marton
- **Committee Members** – Nancy Lawson, Deborah Peckman, Howard Savin, Gerriann Tealer
- **Public** – Jennifer Block, Alina Christy, Lourdes deJesus, Jackie Miller, Karen Patrohay

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Gormley at 6:00PM.

Old Business

- The minutes from the December 13, 2016 meeting were approved.

New Business

- Mrs. Gormley affirmed the current members of the committee. New committee members will be approved at the next Board meeting. All new people will be included.
- Mrs. Gormley and Mrs. Marton will be reviewing the committee's Mission Statement and draft a new mission statement for review/comments by committee members. Then at the next committee meeting, the Mission Statement will be reviewed by all and then passed to the Board for approval.
- Mrs. Marton gave an update on Athletes Helping Athletes which is up and running in our High School. Ms. Rory Yerkes is the Chair for the committee of students. Mrs. Marton will reach out to coaches for feedback.
- Mrs. Marton discussed transition education to adulthood. As much as she would like to start a program in New Hope-Solebury, we don't have enough students for a classroom. Mrs. Marton stated a conversation with the Bucks County Intermediate Unit to start a classroom in New Hope and it may be happening next year – an in-house age 18-21 program. It would be a true work-based learning program located in the District Office area. Mrs. Marton asked for suggested names for the program. Job rotations would continue through the summer.
- Mrs. Marton updated the committee on related services contracts—Behavior Analysts, OT, PT, Speech, Hearing, and Vision. Through detailed analysis of services, the District is looking toward making some changes in our service provider(s), possibly for next school year, in terms of offering better service delivery and financial benefit to the School District. Dr. Yanni commented that this analysis has been needed for a long time and that we need the ability to provide “back up” of services.
- Mrs. Gormley discussed how we can take inclusiveness of school setting and move it to the community, e.g., Parks & Rec, community programs to become an inclusive community, and asked members to generate ideas. Suggestions: Build inclusion in MS/HS athletics programs, the arts, music, and clubs. Mrs. Marton talked about the St. Mary's backpack program. Also, partnering with New Hope Cares was discussed. Mrs. Gormley suggested

acceptance videos on morning announcements and reaching out to more vocal students to utilize them to spread acceptance. Mrs. Gormley and Mrs. Marton will meet to discuss changing social perspectives and expand social leadership. Mr. Malone named the clubs at the High School that do so—PSIC, CSP, Peer Leadership, National Honor Society, and Key Club.

Public Comment

Attendees offered comments and suggestions throughout the various discussions.

Adjournment

Mrs. Gormley adjourned the meeting at 6:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alyssa Marton, M.Ed., BCBA
Director of Special Education