



Special Education Committee Minutes

September 19, 2017

Board Chair—Jennifer Gormley

Administrative Liaison—Alyssa Marton

Attendance—Please see the accompanying committee attendance sheet.

Jennifer Gormley called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

The minutes of the May 11, 2017 meeting were approved.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- Information on a fundraiser benefit P.A.N.D.A.S. Research. Ms. Lumio discussed what it is and how it impacts the child including symptoms, autism-like behaviors and temper tantrums. It was discovered in early to mid-1990's. Should see OCD and/or tic-like behavior. Deterioration in handwriting and math skills.
- Mrs. Marton discussed the Pennsylvania Department of Education Survey regarding cyclical monitoring and art therapy project with typical and students with disabilities.

Public Comment

- Questions about the Middle School Back-to-School Night. Suggestions about creating a guidebook about the special education departments in each school.
- Discussion about related services and open lines of communication.

Jennifer Gormley adjourned the meeting at 7:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alyssa Marton

Director of Special Education



Committee Meeting Sign-In and Attendance

Name (Please Print)	Committee (C) or Public (P)
Renee Lukio	C (P)
Alyssa Marton	(C) P
Pam Thompson	C (P)
Lourdes de Jesus	C (P)
Marie Kohles	C (P)
Jennifer Block	C (P)
Jennifer Gormley	(C) P
Alyssa Klein	C (P)
Gahee Moore	C (P)
Bethanne Jayne	(C) P
M.J. Hyland	C (P)
Christina Hedlund	C (P)
Mina Christy	C (P)
	C P
	C P
	C P
	C P
	C P
	C P
	C P
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	C P

Please note: This sign-in sheet will be included in the meeting minutes and posted to the District's website.



New Hope-Solebury School District
Special Education Committee Minutes

May 11, 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
- **Administration** – Alyssa Marton
- **Committee Members** – Jennifer Block, Deborah Peckman
- **Public** – Amanda Benolken, Amy Laff, Rachel Locke, Pam Thompson

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Gormley at 6:14PM.

Old Business

- The minutes from the April 19, 2017 meeting were approved.
- Update on Awareness Day – Discussion postponed to next meeting.
- Continuation of discussion of the components of an IEP – Discussion postponed to next meeting.
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New Business

- Google Classroom training - Amanda Benolken, K-12 Cyber Education Technology Specialist, was introduced and presented the Google Classroom training.
 - Parent night conducted in the fall – explanation Google Classroom
 - Reviewed Google Classroom and drive with all features,
 - Show her technology website – linked under technology
 - Offered to create other help items if needed
 - Showed read/write toolbar

Public Comment

- Questions were answered during discussion.

Mrs. Gormley will send out an agenda to include the IEP discussion for next meeting June 7 and will try to have more families in attendance.

Adjournment

Mrs. Gormley adjourned the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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



PANDAS Fact Sheet

What is PANDAS?

- The term 'PANDAS' is short for 'Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorder Associated with Streptococcus' (The word streptococcus is often shortened to 'strep').
- A child can be diagnosed with PANDAS when:
 - Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) or tic symptoms suddenly appear for the first time, OR
 - The symptoms suddenly get much worse, AND
 - The symptoms occur during or after a strep infection in the child.
- PANDAS is caused by the body's immune reaction to strep, not the infection itself (Swedo & Grant, 2005). When an infection happens, the body's immune system makes a variety of proteins to help fight the bacteria. Some of these proteins are called antibodies and can be clinically measured. The exact way that causes the neuropsychiatric symptoms (OCD, tics, etc.) is not known.
- Other immune triggers have been also reported to worsen OCD and tics (like Lyme's disease, influenza, mycoplasma, etc.) and because the connection of the immune system to the neuropsychiatric symptoms is not fully understood, little is known about the best treatments (which may be different from other kinds of OCD treatment.) Currently, there are no scientifically approved evaluation and treatment protocols leaving clinicians and parents guessing at the best options for having these children assessed.

Diagnosing PANDAS:

1. Children with PANDAS are initially diagnosed with Obsessive Compulsive disorder or a tic disorder. OCD and tic symptoms in PANDAS are similar to those in the classic forms of childhood OCD and tic disorders (Murphy, Kurlan, & Leckman, 2010).
2. PANDAS first appears in childhood from age 3 to puberty. In addition to OCD or tics, these children may have some or all of the following symptoms:
 - Sudden unexplainable rages (also called emotional lability)
 - Personality changes
 - ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) that is new or dramatically worse.
 - Anorexia (often because of a fear of choking, or fear of throwing-up)
 - Nervous system disorders such as tics or other rapid, jerky movements
 - Age inappropriate behaviors (such as bedtime fears/rituals, loss of impulse control)
 - Separation anxiety
 - Defensiveness caused from hyperactive senses (such as sensitivity to clothing, noise, light, taste, etc.)
 - Noticeable decrease in handwriting or math skills
 - Frequent urination (especially when the child has an active infection)
3. Diagnosis of PANDAS should be discussed after symptoms first suddenly appear or severely worsen. Usually this change is severe and dramatic. Many parents can pinpoint a day or a week when behaviors changed.
4. In PANDAS children, a strep infection occurs before or at the time the OCD symptoms ramp up. Assuming the infection is adequately treated, the first symptoms generally improve within 4-6 weeks. The next OCD episode may last longer and may be triggered by a variety of immunological challenges such as another strep infection, or by other bacterial or viral infections (ear infections, sinusitis, pneumonia, meningitis, impetigo) making a diagnosis more difficult.
5. Lab Tests:
 - A throat swab (rapid and culture) to test for strep can be done when symptoms first appear.



New Hope-Solebury

Dear Parent,

The Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education (BSE), monitors all school districts and charter schools in the state at least once every six years to ensure that they are complying with federal and state regulations for special education. Your school district/charter school will be reviewed this year. As part of this monitoring, the BSE is seeking parent opinions about the special education services being provided. In addition to surveying parents, we are also interested in hearing directly from students about their educational experience. If your child is 14 years of age or older we invite them to complete a student survey. Although parents and students 14 years of age or older are not required to participate in the survey, the BSE encourages them to do so.

To complete the parent survey, parents should go online at <http://apps.lead erservices.com/ParentSurvey>. To complete the student survey, students should go online at <http://apps.lead erservices.com/StudentSurvey>. If you do not have a computer, most public libraries have equipment available for public use. You may also request to use a computer to complete the survey from your school district/charter school or the intermediate unit that serves your area. Each survey is easy to complete and should take 15-20 minutes. An outside agency tabulates the results and provides the school district/charter school and the BSE with a report of how parents and students responded to the questions on an overall basis. Names are not used, and no one is identified. Parents and students must complete the survey **no later than 2/2/2018**. All surveys received by 2/2/2018 will be considered in the BSE monitoring review process.

Should you have any questions about either of these surveys, or if you or your son/daughter need help completing it, you may contact the School District/Charter School Director of Special Education, or the Special Education Consultline toll free at 1-800-879-2301.

Thank you so much for taking the time to provide us with input. The results will assist the BSE in planning with your school district/charter school for future training and improvement activities.

Sincerely,

Ann Hinkson-Herrmann, Director