

MINUTES  
Special Education Committee  
Wednesday September 13, 2023  
Virtual

---

**Present: Dr. Trim, Ms. Stafford, Ms. Meo, Mrs Silverstein, Ms. Deysher, and Ms. Bouknight**

Meeting began with a review of the contracts for Home Instruction services with Essex County Regional Services Commission and Neurological evaluations to be done at Institute of Neurology and Neurosurgery at St Barnabas, Livingston. The committee agreed that the services should be brought forth for Board approval on, September 18, 2023.

Update Ms. Olympia: Ms. Olympia will continue to fulfill her contract with the work begun during the 22-23 school year. In the coming weeks a survey will be sent to all parents for their input. A formal report of the findings will be presented to the board and the community. Dr. Trim will be scheduling a date for Ms. Olympia to do a presentation with the SEPAC community as well.

- Home Instruction Handbook: The 2017 Home Instruction Handbook was updated and revised by Dr. Trim and the Pupil Services Team. Question was raised regarding the possibility of a home instruction policy being

implemented. Dr. Trim will share the document with Dr. Ponds and address reasons she believes a policy may be needed. After her review with Dr. Ponds an update will be given to the Special Education committee before presenting the document to the full board and making the document public.

- Community Based Instruction (CBI) : The Community Based Instruction is off to a great start. We have 19 students enrolled in the program. In past years the program was housed at the Salvation Army. However, due to the increase in enrollment in the program we had to expand our home site to include The Salvation Army and the Wally Choice Center. Many Montclair businesses have entered into relationship with CBI as they are training and have employed our students. Decals have been ordered and distributed to businesses that support the program. Look for the decals in store windows throughout town. The community is encouraged to show their support by shopping at the various businesses with the CBI decal as well.
- Montclair Counseling Service: The Montclair Counseling Service (MCS) has expanded and is working along with 2<sup>nd</sup> year Master Level student interns from Montclair State and Fordham Universities. Licensed Clinicians are providing services and are supervising these Interns. Ms. Dock is overseeing this initiative. The MCS service provides

counseling to students that may have been discharged from the ESS Counseling Program. Currently the collaboration and scheduling of students and faculty seems to be going well.

- Autism Spectrum Disorder program: The Program is at full capacity at both Nishuane and Bradford Schools. Dr. Trim is concerned that in light of students being tested or students moving into the district, future student enrollment for ASD/ABA program may exceed the state requirement of six students. The Pupil Service team in collaboration with building principals are discussing classroom space and the possibility of staffing needs to meet the state mandate if the enrollment increases.

A concern from the committee was raised that our current committee meeting dates may not allow for the Pupil Service Personal to have items for Board approval received in the Business Office in a time. Dr. Trim has agreed to revise our current calendar dates e to coincide with the dates set by the Business Office.