

Special Education Committee

Proposed Agenda Please add agenda items if you have suggestions

May 18, 2023

3:00 - 4:00 pm

Dr. Goldblatt, Dr. Trim, Ms. Stafford, Ms. Silverstein, Ms. Finnelly, Attorney Gilfillan, Ms. Dock, Ms. LaGalla Ms. Bouknight,

Attorney Review of Special Education Handbook

The Special Education Handbook has been reviewed by the Attorney and changes have been made to align with the State of NJ Law and give parents a document that can be used to know more about the Montclair PS Special Education Program. It should be noted that the PRISE handbook which is revised every 3 years is the Handbook that Parents should use to obtain the most up to date information on NJ state and federal laws as it relates to Special Education. This PRISE handbook is on line and is given to parents at the initial meeting when a child has been referred for testing. The Pupil Services team will send the handbook draft via email to SEPAC Leadership and the Special Education Committee members to review. Pupil Services will schedule a follow up meeting with the all parties to discuss any concerns or changes before presenting the handbook to the Board of Education for adoption.

Update: Extended School Year (ESY) Program: The Pupil Services team is in the planning stages for the ESY program. There will be three confirmed sites: Bullock, Bradford and Montclair High School. The DLC is still under consideration for the ABA program as there are renovations scheduled during the summer. An alternative site may have to be selected if renovations conflict with the ESY program. Information will be sent to parents regarding the ESY program by email.

Update: Audit Recommendation regarding “Financial Planning Accounting” Pupil Services has sent their request for additional information regarding the findings of the Audit to Ms. Hunt, and are awaiting a response from the Auditor.

Update: Ms. Olympia Community Presentation for Pupil Services: The Community/Board presentation is on hold until Ms. Olympia has the opportunity to meet with the parents. Pupil Services is hoping to have Parent/Caregiver input before the end of the 2022-23 school year. After meeting with the parent/caregivers Ms. Olympia will prepare a report for the Community to present to the Board of Education.

Update: The use of Paraprofessional checklist and Paraprofessional schedule/assignments

Paraprofessional schedules and assignments will be reviewed after the yearly IEP reviews for students. IEP reviews are currently taking place. During the summer, schedules and assignments will be made based on a student’s IEP review indicators for the 2023-2024 school year.

NARCAM Program with Rutgers University: Does the district plan to track the usage/success? How can this program be integrated of the current Health Curriculum. The current Health Curriculum does not include NARCAM training. It is noted that parents, caregivers and students

18 and up can email Rutgers and they will get back to the family to set up the online training.. Currently, there are no plans to track who has signed up and or completed the program. Mr. Freeman has agreed to send out a message to families in his weekly May 24report. The district is relying on parents to self-report and or give feedback on their experience.

Review of the seclusion room practices in Montclair in comparison to State of NJ guidelines:

There are two seclusion room know as Chill rooms in Bullock. The practices of the Chill Room and restraint practices align with the State of NJ guidelines. Children are never locked in or left alone in the room . Children are always supervised and an report is made and sent to Pupil Services whenever a child is placed in the Chill room. Last year, 12 reports were made and 9 of the 12 reports were for the same student. Safety personnel, principals and staff that may directly oversee or come into contact with students in the Chill room have received training on the proper strategies to de-escalate a situation, and the procedure to follow in the event that a student needs to be restrained or placed in the Chill room. There is documentation at the building and district level that must be filled out and entered into the Genesis and reviewed by District Administrators.

Respectfully submitted,
Yvonne W. Bouknight
Special Education Cmittee Chair
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