

Downe Township School District

220 Main Street
Newport, NJ 08345
856-447-4673

Special Education Parent Advisory Committee

May 26, 2020

3:00PM

(This meeting is being held via teleconference due to school closure
related to Covid 19 Public Health Concerns)

Tele-conference Participants:

Eileen Culver –	CSST Supervisor –	participated by teleconference
Sherry Miller –	CSA -	participated by teleconference
Jennifer Schino –	School Social Worker -	participated by teleconference
Shannon Maloney -	Speech Therapist -	participated by teleconference
Terry Whildon –	Parent -	participated by teleconference

Downe Township School District

220 Main Street
Newport, NJ 08345
856-447-4673

Special Education Parent Advisory Committee

May 26, 2020

3:00PM

AGENDA

A. Welcome – Introductions and Sign-In

B. New Business

- a. Review of Parent Advisory Packet
- b. Review of Special Education Classification Process
- c. Discussion of Currently Available Programs
- d. Review of Resources available to families over the summertime.
- e. Open Forum Discussion Regarding Special Education Programming at Downe Twp School.

Downe Township School District
220 Main Street
Newport, NJ 08345
856-447-4673

Special Education Parent Advisory Committee
May 26, 2020
3:00PM

In accordance with the implementation of N.J.A.C. 6A:14, Subchapter 1.2 (h), the district board of education is ensuring that the provision of a special education parent advisory group is in place to provide input to the district on issues concerning students with disabilities.

Board of Education Members

President:	Mr. Stultz Taylor
Vice President:	Mrs. Marylou Henderson
Board Member:	Mrs. Kim Beardsworth
Board Member:	Mrs. Marie Blizzard
Board Member:	Mr. Albert Casper
Board Member:	Mr. John Cerrito
Board Member:	Mr. Dyron Corley
Board Member:	Mrs. Darla Saulin

Administration:

Mrs. Sherri Miller, Superintendent / Principal

Ms. Lisa DiNovi, Business Administrator

Mrs. Candy Stratton, Administrative Office Manager

Downe Township School District
220 Main Street
Newport, NJ 08345
856-447-4673

Special Education Parent Advisory Committee
May 26, 2020
3:00PM

Downe Township District
Special Education Staff and Programs

Administration

Superintendent: Sherri Miller
Supervisor of Curriculum: Wallace Maines

Child Study Team

Child Study Team Supervisor/School Psychologist - Eileen Culver
School Social Worker - Jennifer Schino
Speech/Language Specialist - Shannon Maloney
Occupational Therapist - Sarah Cobb
Physical Therapist - Salem County Special Services School District
Learning Disabilities Teacher/Consultant - Selfridge Consultants

Special Education Teachers

Pam Schumacher – LLD
Brooke Morvay – Elementary Resource Room
Megan Sheppard – Middle School Resource Room

Programs

General Education
General Education - Supported
Pull-out Resource Room
In-class Resource Room
Self-Contained Program
Related Services
Out of District Placements

Downe Township School District
220 Main Street
Newport, NJ 08345
856-447-4673

Special Education Parent Advisory Committee
May 26, 2020

Meeting Minutes:

- Mrs. Culver began the meeting by introducing the teachers. She then stated that this PAC meeting is different from typical PAC meetings because of the online format. There was a speaker who planned to come; however, the meeting had to be rescheduled twice. The speaker may come next year.
- Mrs. Culver discussed the process for figuring out how to best meet the needs of special education students in this situation. We have added telepractice services for speech and occupational therapy. Our special education services were similar to those of the general education population, but with modifications and different expectations. We did not have the time to create an entirely different special education remote learning situation. If remote learning continues next year, the format may change. We may be able to have other services like online resource rooms if we have to go online in the fall.
- Mrs. Culver stated that Downe Township programming for next year will look similar to how it was this year. The school will have upper grade self-contained classroom, LLD, resource rooms, and general education, aides if needed, and out of district for more specific cases. Mrs. Culver stated that related services will be the same as this year, with Ms. Schino providing counseling, Ms. Maloney for speech, and Mrs. Cobb for OT. We will contract from special services for physical therapy.
- Mrs. Culver then asked the parent in attendance if there was anything different she'd like to see or if there is anything we be doing more of. The parent did not have concerns or questions relating to this. Mrs. Culver and Mrs. Miller addressed specific programming and eligibility process questions regarding the parent's children.
- Mrs. Schino and Mrs. Miller elaborated on special education programming at Downe Twp.
- Mrs. Culver explained the difference between an IEP and 504.

- The CST will be posting the following link to their newsletter on the school's website which will include links to resources and suggestions for parents on helping their children to cope with the current pandemic and social restrictions.

<https://www.smores.com/av1e6>

Additional Resources and Information

School Website: <http://www.downschool.org>

Webpage devoted to helping parents understand and help their child with learning disabilities.:

<http://empoweringparents.wix.com/learning-resources>

Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic: <http://www.rfbid.org>

Learning Disabilities and ADHD: <https://www.ldonline.org>

Autism: www.autismspeaks.org

Division of Developmental Disabilities:

www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dd

Statewide Parent Advocacy Network: <https://www.spannj.org>

Child Find: <http://www.nj.gov/education/specialed/childfind/>

Family **Resources** for **children** and adolescents with emotional and behavioral health **care** challenges: www.performcarenj.org

Downe Township School District
220 Main Street
Newport, NJ 08345
856-447-4673

Special Education Parent Advisory Committee
May 26, 2020
3:00PM

WHY GET INVOLVED?

There is a significant statistical relationship between the level of family involvement and improved outcomes for children and young adults. (Parent Reaching Out, 2006)

Special Education Parent Advisory Groups are required for all school districts in New Jersey. The purpose of these groups is to provide opportunities for parents and community members to offer input to their districts on critical issues.

What is The Purpose of a SEPAC?

- To provide direct input on the policies, programs, and practices that impact services and supports for children with disabilities and their families.
- To increase the involvement of families of children with special needs in making recommendations on special education policy.
- To advise on matters that pertain to the education, health and safety of children with special needs.
- To advise on unmet needs of children with disabilities.

Who Should Attend SEPAC Meetings?

- Anyone with a student or students in the school district with different learning needs; be they physical, emotional, or behavioral.
- Anyone with a student or students eligible for or receiving services under Special Education