

**Lawrence Township School District**  
225 Main Street  
Cedarville, NJ 08311  
856-447-4237

**Special Education Parent Advisory Committee**  
**May 27, 2020**  
**3:00PM**

This meeting was held via teleconference due to school closure related to Covid-19 public health concerns.

**Tele-conference Participants:**

Eileen Culver	CST Supervisor	Participated via Teleconference
Dr. Shelley Magan	CSA	Participated via Teleconference
Kaitlyn Yavorsky	School Psychologist	Participated via Teleconference
Paula Levick	Speech Therapist	Participated via Teleconference
Sarah Cobb	OT	Participated via Teleconference
Kate Costello	Social Worker	Participated via Teleconference
Nina Paulaitis	Parent	Participated via Teleconference
Susan Quinones	Parent	Participated via Teleconference
Daniela Aviles	Parent	Participated via Teleconference

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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. Discussion of Special Education in Remote leaning environment.
  - e. Review of resources for families currently and during the summer
  - f. Open Forum Discussion Regarding Special Education Programming at MLP

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**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

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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:	Bill Reyes
Vice President:	Ed Cox
Board Member:	Misty Sheppard
Board Member:	Linda Miletta
Board Member:	Kristen Figueroa
Business Administrator:	Lisa Dinovi
Business Office Secretary:	Chip Scharnagl

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**Lawrence Township District - Special Education Staff and Programs**

**Administration**

Superintendent: Dr. Shelley Magan  
Supervisor of Assessment, Curriculum, and Student Services: Heather Burkhart

**Child Study Team**

Eileen Culver, Child Study Team Supervisor/School Psychologist  
Kaitlyn Yavorsky, School Psychologist  
Katherine Costello, School Social Worker  
Denise Spaulding, Learning Disabilities Teacher/Consultant  
Paula Levick, Speech/Language Specialist  
Sarah Cobb, Occupational Therapist  
Physical Therapy provided through Salem County Special Services School District

**Special Education Teachers**

Amber Saylor	Anne Ryan
Alex Palmentieri	Briana McCuen
Kelsi McCafferty	Hannah Dougherty
Ashley Olsen	

**Programs**

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

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Meeting Minutes

Child Study Team staff and CSA introduced themselves. Three parents in attendance introduced themselves.

Mrs. Culver provided brief explanation of the purpose of PAC and this meeting.

Mrs. Culver shared that unfortunately due to Covid, our PAC meeting speaker scheduled for earlier this spring was not able to attend. He was going to speak on children with communication difficulties. We are hoping that he will attend next year to speak to our parents.

It was discussed that CST meetings and services have continued via Zoom since the school closure. It was discussed that special education and related services have continued for students despite the school closure.

One parent shared that services have been going well. Although, it took some time to iron out the forms. Mrs. Culver explained the process that the school went through to figure out how and if services could be provided. This process took some time and was very confusing as the information changed frequently.

A parent asked if services would be provided this summer. Mrs. Culver explained that if students had services for ESY written into their IEP, the CST was offering different options, including tutoring, another school district's virtual summer program, and teletherapy.

One mom shared that virtual school was a great option for her because she was able to see what her children were doing. She also stated in the past that they weren't able to participate in ESY due to her work schedule, but she was excited at the fact that this summer, her child might be able to receive services via tele-services.

Special Ed programming for next year was discussed. Mrs. Culver shared that the same options for next year would be available for classified students, this includes both in house and out of district placements. It was also discussed that it is in the code that different grade levels can be grouped, if necessary.

A parent asked if Mrs. Culver knew who the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade special ed teacher would be next year. Mrs. Culver shared that it was unknown at this time.

Mrs. Culver shared that an online news article would be available on our website in the near future. One of the things that would be covered in this would be how to talk to your child about the school closure and Covid 19. One resource in this newsletter are links to webinars.

Mrs. Culver shared that she is available over the summer months to answer any questions related to social or academic concerns.

Mrs. Culver shared that she knows that a lot of parents have questions about what school will look like next year if school remains closed or has to close again. She shared that the CST is working on having resources in place in case this happens. One plan would be a virtual resource room.

Dr. Magan shared that the school did a quick technology survey before the school closed. She shared that this survey was not overly helpful because the school was closed for much longer than expected. In this survey, parents were counting their cell phones as an option to access the internet. The school did not realize it would be closed for this long, and a cell phone is not an optimal way to participate in online learning. In addition, some families have had difficulty with internet speed because multiple devices were being used from home. She shared that the school still has a couple available hot spots available in case a family needed them.

Mrs. Culver shared that students who were in the process of being evaluated by the CST will be first on the list to be tested when returning to school. She shared that the process did not stop but is paused. This includes taking referrals. Mrs. Culver has inquired about completing testing over the summer, but right now, that is not an option.

Mrs. Culver asked parents if there is anything they would like to see as far as programming for next year. She asked if there were any topics that she would like to see us bring in speakers for.

One parent shared that she would like to see a speaker brought in to share about how to keep their child interested and motivated in learning. Completing homework after the school day is a struggle.

One parent shared that one difficulty that she is running into is her child not being able to type his work. The parent has to do this for him. Mrs. Culver suggested taking a picture of the handwritten work and send it to the teacher. The parent shared that she is able to do this but finds it is more work.

One parent asked about how to request making changes in an IEP. Mrs. Culver shared that the parent should email the case manager, and they can set up a meeting to discuss changes. If the changes are minor, an IEP can be amended without a meeting.

A parent asked if the child study team would be working this summer. Mrs. Culver shared that she would be accessible throughout the summer.

Dr. Magan shared that she understands that with or without a special ed classification, this type of learning can be difficult for some individuals. She said that one of the biggest challenges is getting each child what they need without putting her teachers at risk (for example handing out paper work instead of using the computer). She said that her goal is to make this alternate method of learning better.

Dr. Magan shared that at this point, she does not know what school will look like for next year. She shared that she wants kids to have more than just a computer and internet. She knows that they need more.

One parent asked if summer camp is a possibility if the governor allowed it. Dr. Magan shared that after speaking to the BOE, she felt that it would be too late to plan a camp. She is not sure how she would staff the camp right now. She also does not know how she would run a classroom with the current restrictions in place.

Parents in attendance were informed they would receive an email containing the minutes from this meeting, along with links for resources.

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/av1e>

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### **Additional Resources and Information**

School Website: [www.myronlpowell.org](http://www.myronlpowell.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](http://www.autismspeaks.org)

Division of Developmental Disabilities:  
[www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dd](http://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](http://www.performcarenj.org)