

**UPPER PERKIOMEN SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Education Center  
2229 E. Buck Road  
Pennsburg, PA 18073**

**Special Education & Pupil Services Committee Meeting**

**MINUTES**

March 25, 2019 – 6:30 p.m.

**CHAIR:** Judy Maginnis

Ex-Officio: Dr. Kerry Drake, President

**MEMBERS:**

Melanie Cunningham  
James Glackin

Superintendent – Dr. Alexis McGloin

Interim Director of Special Education & Pupil Services – Dr. Marykay Feeley

In attendance: Judy Maginnis, Dr. Andrea Farina, Melanie Cunningham, Chris McCloskey, James Glacken, Allison Stephens, Phil Detwiler, Stacy Swavely, Raeann Hofkin, Kim Gery, Laura Hilehoffer, Molly Storti, Casey West, Christina Belleti, Jacqui Keller, Michele Kline, Laura Hilehoffer, Mike Elliot, LaBrea Huff, Carol Elias, Abby Mackey

**AGENDA**

1. UPSD Mental Health Supports

An audience member asked about the supports that are available for emotional support services. Dr. Farina explained that students identified with emotional disturbance access a variety of resources including groups run by the counselor, services provided through the behavior specialist etc. Dr. Farina explained the process by which a student could be considered for emotional support services. Dr. Farina stated that we do not have elementary emotional support programs at our elementary school building.

Phil Detwiler asked further questions about how students with various disabilities can access special education supports. Patty Stahley asked about how we can better support our teachers. Judy Maginnis explained that this presentation was given in order to provide a closer look at supports that can be available to teachers.

Mrs. Hofkin asked about the type of data collection that would be required to identify a student with a disability. Kim Gery asked about data collection. Dr. Farina explained that data is

considered by a MTSS team. Molly Storti asked about building administrators attending MTSS meetings.

Mindfulness was discussed at the high school and middle school. There was a question about bringing Mindfulness to the elementary level.

A question was posed about parent engagement in the MTSS process. Jacqui Keller posed questions about parent permission for student participation to partake in group counseling. Michele Kline asked about getting a school psychologist involved in the discussion and data collection earlier.

When discussing threat assessments, there were comments from the audience about the level of threat and the response that is warranted. A question arose about the training that was provided to staff around trauma informed care. Secondary staff members have been trained in trauma informed care. It is not required for elementary staff, but could be considered.

Mr. Elliot asked to consider additional information about how to improve supports and services that we offer. Mrs. Cunningham suggested that additional guidelines about data collection could be considered. There was additional discussion about the role of the school psychologist in the team. There were discussions about the rights of students with and without disabilities in the school setting. Kim Gery brought up a concern about speaking with other students after there is a behavioral concern in the classroom. Carol Elias asked if there was a reason why there is no elementary level emotional support program in Upper Perk. Dr. Farina stated that an itinerant emotional support program could be considered. Molly Storti provided information about the supports that she offers to students at the middle school level. There was a question about what an emotional support program might look like at the elementary school setting. Stacy Swavely spoke about the supports teachers are looking for- strategies, advice and in class support. Jacqui Keller stated that it appears to be easier to obtain academic interventions rather than behavior interventions. Phil Detwiler stated that an itinerant emotional support program should be considered and he is seeking action around the idea. Jacqui Keller suggested that curricular changes might be implemented in order to resolve some issues.

There was discussion about follow up on this topic on the April 22 Curriculum & Instruction Meeting.