



Newtown Public Schools

Board of Education Presentation Final Report: Special Education

Independent External Consultants

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Appreciation and Thanks

- ❑ We greatly appreciate the participation of the District parents and staff.
- ❑ We are thankful that in order to tell their story, parents and staff trusted us to keep student, parent and staff feedback confidential.
- ❑ The information shared by the participants was essential and greatly contributed to what we were able to learn about the District, its students, families and staff. - The Final Report is a meaningful and representative reflection of their invaluable contributions.
- ❑ Thank You!

Impetus for Special Education Review: Parent Expressions of Concern

- ❑ Ability to Deliver a Specialized Reading Program
- ❑ Certification of Staff to Deliver a Specialized Reading Program (e.g., Wilson and/or Orton Gillingham)
- ❑ Confidentiality of Student Information
- ❑ Parents as Partners in the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) process and the development of an Individualized Education Program (IEP)

Special Education Review

- ❑ Occurred between October 29 to November 30, 2018
- ❑ Information Obtained From:
 - Two Parent Forums
 - One District Administrator Forum
 - One Central Office Forum
 - One District Staff Forum
 - Parent Survey
 - District Staff Survey
 - One-to-One Discussions with Parents, Staff



Participation of Parents and Staff

❑ Forums

- 37 Participating Parents
- 111 Participating Staff

❑ Surveys

- 155 Responding Parents
- 361 Responding Staff

- ❑ A total of 1,795 comments: 563 from parents and 1,232 from staff



Accolades for the District

- Staff and Families' Acknowledgement of the District's skillful and caring:
 - General Education Teachers
 - Special Education Teachers
 - Related Service Staff
 - Paraprofessionals
 - Administrators

"The District has a tremendous amount of extremely dedicated, loving, talented, qualified teachers and other staff that I will forever be grateful to."



Layout of the Final Report

- ✓ Background Information
- ✓ Context – Data Profile, Data History
- ✓ Methods Utilized to Collect Information
- ✓ Participants
- ✓ Analysis of Parent and Staff Responses
- ✓ Recommendations



Appendices in the Final Report

- ✓ Appendix A: Parent Survey
- ✓ Appendix B: Staff Survey
- ✓ Appendix C: Power Point for Parents
- ✓ Appendix D: Power Point for Staff
- ✓ Appendix E: Data from Parent Survey
- ✓ Appendix F: Data from Staff Survey

Analysis of Programs, Practices and Perceptions – Identified Areas

- ❑ Specialized Reading Programs and Staff
- ❑ Confidentiality
- ❑ Professional Development/Training
- ❑ Staffing
 - ❑ Teachers and Paraprofessionals
 - ❑ Occupational Therapy
 - ❑ Student Support Staff
- ❑ Planning and Placement Team (PPT) and Individualized Education Program (IEP)



Recommendations in the Report

Review of District Policies, Practices & Procedures in the following areas are recommended:

- ❑ Specialized Reading Programs and Certified Staff
- ❑ Confidentiality
- ❑ Professional Development, Training
- ❑ Staffing Levels
- ❑ Planning and Placement Team (PPT) and Individualized Education Programs (IEP)



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