

**PVCICS SEPAC Meeting
January 25, 2017**

Present:
Diane Preston, SEPAC Chair
Christie Fontaine, SPED Director
one parent

Meeting called to order at 5:41 PM by Diane Preston

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

Questions about ASSESSMENTS / TESTING

Diane Preston asked Christie Fontaine for clarification regarding the assessment process and what types of disabilities the school may test for and diagnose. Ms. Fontaine said that school psychologists typically can diagnose a learning disability but not a health / medical disability. The school psychologist may identify characteristics of health impairments (such as autism or ADHD), but a medical doctor would typically make that type of diagnosis.

Diane Preston asked about the typical process for determining if a student has ADHD. Ms. Fontaine said that this is usually diagnosed by a pediatrician administering a Conners rating scale or Vanderbilt rating scale. These assessments are not administered by school psychologists. Diane Preston asked, if a parent was concerned about attention problems, should he/she talk to the pediatrician or the school? Ms. Fontaine suggested making an appointment with her to discuss the concerns.

Further, it was asked whether having third party testing performed outside of the school could impair the school's assessment process. Ms. Fontaine said that it could be a problem because some testing cannot be done twice within a 12-month period. The school could reject the findings of the third-party, and then the school would have to wait twelve months before doing its own assessments. Ms. Fontaine said it is always better for parents to coordinate with her before engaging another party for assessments and testing.

Ms. Fontaine provided a flow chart for determining eligibility for special education.

SCHEDULING / LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

Diane Preston requested again that the administration coordinate a presentation on RTI for an upcoming meeting.

Diane Preston said that she would be moving to New Jersey at the end of March. At this time, no one has volunteered to take on a leadership role in the SEPAC or with the Parent Support Group after March. Ms. Fontaine said that she would mention the leadership opportunity to families of students with IEPs.

The meeting adjourned at 6:21PM.