

The Southbury Training School Board of Trustees met in Eugene Harvey's Conference Room at Southbury Training School, Southbury, Connecticut, on Monday, March 24, 2014.

Present:

Ann Dougherty, Vice Chairman
Mark Cooper, Secretary
Louis Richards
Ed Edelson
Diana Mennone
Drew Morten
Eugene Harvey, STS Director

Guests: Julie Andring and Meg Capen, Music Department

Vice Chairman Ann Dougherty called the meeting of the Southbury Training School Board of Trustees to order at 1:00 p.m. She indicated that Chairman Lemay could not attend the meeting and asked her to Chair the meeting.

GUEST SPEAKER: Julie Andring and Meg Capen, Music Department

Meg Capen provided a brief history of her involvement in the Music Department at the school.

Julie Andring presented an overview of the internship program and music therapy services available to all those who live at the school. About eight years ago, the program obtained approval to be recognized on the National Roster of music therapy programs, one of three in the State of Connecticut. This means the programs information goes out nationwide so that all the other schools can look information on line. Music therapists need a four year education and then 1200 hours of hands on contact to obtain a degree in music therapy. To become Board Certified, one takes a national exam. The STS intern program provides 1050 hours of that hands-on experience. The interns are at STS about seven months or thirty weeks with a 35 hour work week. By the end of the program, each intern has a full case load, are doing all the paperwork, assessments, reports, etc. Each STS music therapist can mentor two interns at a time, or maximum of four on campus. Currently there are three interns. The interns do fabulous work and are very helpful. There are usually more applicants for internships than can be accepted.

Meg Capen added that she is involved in the hospice and end of life care program at STS. One of the interns is working with her on grief support. There are meetings on grounds about once a week with music for grief support. They go into cottages and memorial services when needed. These efforts are collaborated with the Chaplin.

It was also noted that eight of the nine summer concerts have been booked with some new performers, starting the third Tuesday in June and running to the second Tuesday in August. There has been a lot of support for the music program and the music staff is very appreciative.

There were general questions and discussion on the types of activities undertaken by the music department and how the program interacts with residents. It was noted how beneficial music therapy is to the residents and how they interact with music.

COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Diana Mennone reported that the January and February meetings were cancelled because of weather. She did attend a Special meeting on February 24th and a Regular meeting on March 13th. These were her first meetings. The Council makes recommendations to the Governor about issues affecting people with intellectual disabilities. She is the one representative from STS who sits on the Council. The Legislature is in its short session until May 7th. The Council gets involved in the legislative process and was given summaries of six Bills the Department has brought up. Five have moved on to the Public Health Committee. There are over six pages of Bills under consideration. Most of the agenda items were not directly related to STS. There was discussion by the Council about supporting a Bill for more funds for those who need services and the number of people on the waiting list. There are various estimates and discussion on how to prioritize need. Please refer to the DDS website: <http://www.ct.gov/dds>, click on the Boards & Councils link, and then on the Council for Developmental Services for any minutes submitted and legislative updates.

Vice Chairman Dougherty thanked Mrs. Mennone for her services on the Council.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Population: The current population is 343.

Doctor-On-Call Procedure: The new Doctor-On-Call procedure has been operating for two months with no issues.

Governor's Task Force on the Future of STS: A meeting was held on March 14th, this was the last meeting of the first phase. There are three architectural "gems" that have been identified on campus, which are Crawford, Roselle and the Administration Building.

Cottage Closure: Cottage 15 is going to be temporarily relocated to Cottage 30 which has an elevator and is in very good shape. Once work in Cottage 15 is complete, the residents will go back to it.

Cottage 7: Some problematic issues were identified in Cottage 7 and are being addressed. There was general discussion on the identified issues and the appropriate response for each. A response plan has been developed and submitted to the Health Department of approval.

Powerhouse: Vice Chairman Dougherty asked about the future plans for the power plant and at what point does it no longer make sense to keep the current boilers operational. Director Harvey responded that he is working with contractors to find a more efficient boiler system. Engineers evaluating the system have now determined that this new system would be able to reach up to Cottage 18.

The Future of STS. There was general discussion on the future of STS and how the campus has been downsizing since admissions were closed. Director Harvey provided a summary of efforts of the various administrations since Governor Weicker and how STS has responded to service changes and staffing issues over time.

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Edelson stated that the Town of Southbury has a shortage of baseball fields and asked if consideration could be given to use the site of the old sewage treatment plant for this purpose. Director Harvey indicated he would look into the matter.

The next meeting of the STS Board of Trustees will be **Monday, April 28, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. in the STS Director's Conference Room**. Vice Chairman Dougherty suggested someone from the nursing staff or the medical director be invited to come to the April meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business Drew Morten made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mark Cooper seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark A.R. Cooper, Secretary

Approved by the STS Board of Trustees
April 3, 2014