

Guilford SEPTO Membership Meeting
Monday, March 19, 2018
6:00 – 7:30 pm
Guilford High School Library
Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm.

Board members present:

Co-chairs: Kim Beckett and Kristen Eveland
Co-secretaries: Sarah Kellogg and Amy Mason-Mann
Co-parliamentarian: Jaye Carlson (Matt McCleery absent)

Also present various Guilford SEPTO membership participants.

Approval of February meeting minutes

Motion was made by Jaye Carlson to approve the February Membership Meeting Minutes, seconded by Debbie Doyle. The vote passed unanimously.

General Announcements and Information

- The “Empower Card” is a photo ID card for persons with cognitive disabilities offered by Guilford Police Department. It’s launch has been postponed to first or second week of April.
- **April 14, 2018** Clifford Beers Annual Builders of Hope Breakfast with Autism advocate Rosie King (self-diagnosed with Aspergers) to be held at 480 Sherman Ave Hamden, CT 7:30 – 9:00a.m.
- **April 23, 2018** next Guilford SEPTO meeting: “Developing the IEP” by CPAC to be held at GHS Library 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
- **May 7, 2018** “Choose LOVE at Home” by Scarlett Lewis (mother of Sandy Hook shooting victim) at the Mercy Center in Madison, CT 6-8 p.m.
- **May 10, 2018** SARAH Inc. Annual Gala at Woodwinds in Branford CT
- **May 21, 2018** Guilford SEPTO meeting: Speaker(s) from Center for Children with Special Needs at GHS Library 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
- **May 22, 2018** Tip-a-Cop at the Guilford Mooring fundraiser lunch & dinner
- **May 31, 2018** Unified Sports year-end Banquet at GHS
- **June 8, 2018** Special Olympics Torch Run & Opening Ceremonies at SCSU
- **Unified Arts** program at Guilford Art Center starts in April
- **Thursdays at 5:30 pm SHIFT Cycle** – adaptive cycling class

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Guest Speakers: **Jaye Carlson** - school-based **Unified Sports**
 Erin O'Reilly community-based **Special Olympics**

Unified Sports is a school-based, inclusive sports program that partners students with and without intellectual disabilities (I/DD). Students with I/DD or physical disabilities are called athletes, and those without are called partners. The Guilford program typically meets once a week throughout the academic year, offering Soccer, Basketball, Volleyball & Track.

- The motto for the Guilford Unified Sports program is "setting up all participants for SUCCESS."
- Middle school team (grades 5-8) meets at Baldwin Middle School Gym with coaches Steve Zajac and Jaye Carlson. To become a partner in the middle school Unified program, peers must submit an essay to Coach Zajac stating why they want to be on the Unified Sports team. There are so many students with the desire to be part of the program, we usually assign them only one season, i.e., soccer, basketball OR volleyball.
- High school team practices in the auxiliary gym at GHS and offers soccer, basketball, volleyball and track.
- Unified Sports has a program for the elementary level, but at this time only Guilford Lakes offers it for six weeks.
- The Unified Agreement, which must be signed by all partners, athletes and parents, explains the expectations of the program as far as rules, safety, behavior and communication.
- Like any sport team, SAFETY is the #1 priority for the program. Athletes and partners are expected to be committed, respectful and abide by the rules. A particular season in Unified may not be a good fit for an athlete, i.e., an athlete who is identified as a "runner," one who runs away from the setting, may do better during the basketball season where we practice in a confined area, as opposed to soccer, which is played on the open field.
- It is critical that parents of Athletes work with Pupil Services to request para support, if necessary, i.e., if the Athlete has any behavior that will require additional supervision such as wandering, physical dangers, etc.
- It is ideal when paras are introduced to Unified coaches prior to the start of the season.
- Unified may not be for everyone, and there are reasons why coaches may need to make a recommendation for the student to temporarily or permanently stop attending Unified.
 - It may be evident that the student just does not like Unified Sports.
 - If after a period of time of working with an athlete, coaches observe behavior towards self or others that is determined to be dangerous, it may be recommended to the parents and administrators for participation to end.

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- If a child does not engage in a Unified group activity, seems chronically disinterested, and/or engages in other activities or behaviors that do not reflect the purpose and goals of Unified Sports, the coaches will have a conversation with Pupil Services and the parent.
- One of the main purposes of Unified Sports is to create relationships that will continue outside of the sport.
- Unified Sports holds an annual banquet at the end of the year. Through our fundraisers, it is our goal to cover the cost of each athlete and partner. Supporting us through our Poinsettia Fundraiser in Nov/Dec, our Mother's Day bouquets in Apr/May and buying spirit wear when offered, all help us support the program.

Special Olympics

Erin O'Reilly heads the local **Central Shoreline Special Olympics**

socentralshoreline@gmail.com 203-909-3727

- Athlete and partners are always needed. You must be at least 8 years old.
- There is required paperwork that would need to be completed before participating including a recent physical form.
- Groupings are set by ages and abilities; there are some exceptions when needed.
- To participate in any Special Olympics you must commit to playing in both the Qualifiers and the Tournament.
- Central Shoreline's summer program includes aquatics, tennis, race walking, track (running) and a specialized sailing program.
- Throughout the rest of the year other sports offered are basketball, volleyball, softball, golf, and snowshoe. Jaye coaches basketball in the fall.
- Practice for Summer Games occurs April – June.
- The Torch Run and opening Ceremonies for Special Olympics CT summer games is June 8, 2018. It is a spectacular event.
- Summer games are held at Southern CT State University from June 8-10, 2018.
- Contact Erin O'Reilly or Jaye Carlson if you have any questions.

7:13 p.m. Motion to Adjourn meeting made by Gus Kellogg. Seconded by Ginny Brown.