



Special Education Parent Advisory Council Minutes

March 26, 2019 Meeting
Barnstable Intermediate School

Attendance Head Count: 4 including officers, parents, and district personnel

Children in Daycare: 2

Guest: Susan (CORD), Kristin Bono (JRI)

SEPAC Business Meeting

President Kathy Bent called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., welcomed everyone, and thanked Principal Anderson for hosting the meeting.

Nominations were open for 2019-20 officers. There were no nominations received during the meeting due to low attendance. Nominations will be accepted via email or Facebook messaging.

Kathy stated the purpose of the meeting is to gather input for improving special education to submit to the district administration. Your input can be shared by emailing barnsepac@gmail.com, submitting a Comment Form on the SEPAC website (BarnstableSEPAC.com), or mailing a printed Comment Form (or sending a note) to P.O. Box 623, Centerville, MA 02632.

Procedure for Reporting to Administration

The first reporting using the Procedure for Reporting to Administration. Concerns brought forth last school year, and suggestions will be sent forward.

Comments/Suggestions from Parents Included

- A parent brought up a problem with a divorced-parent situation where only one of the parents was receiving notice of IEP meetings and therefore, had no invitation to participate in the IEP meeting resulting in no input to the actual IEP that was developed. It was recommended that the parent who did not receive the meeting invitation write to the school to communicate that there was no PWN of the IEP meeting and he did not receive the opportunity to participate in the IEP development process. He should request that the IEP Team reconvene to allow participation.
- CORD reminded parents that it provides free advocates for parents who need help with services. There is a grass roots effort to expand services throughout the Cape. CORD also supports SEPACs throughout Cape Cod.
- A parent asked for an update on the Search for Executive Director. Kathy Bent reported that the Committee interview two candidates in February and there has been no subsequent action.
- A parent reported that the meeting with the School Committee member that also had a special education coordinator present was terrific and requested that this type of meeting occur regularly.
- A parent was told it is difficult to find therapists when current therapists in the District retire. Is there a plan for getting new therapists in the District?

JRI Children's Behavioral Health Initiative

Kristen Bono attended and shared information about the Children's Behavioral Health Initiative which is a program to ensure students with behavior needs receive the services to help them. These services can be provided in-home or elsewhere. She explained the procedure and encouraged families needing help to contact her. She will return in April to provide information to families who were not able to attend this evening.

REMINDERS → Child care is available at every meeting. Meetings are always the last Tuesday of the month. Remember to check Facebook for the updated information or the SEPAC website-- www.barnstablesepac.com.

Announcements

The next meeting is Tuesday, April 30 at Barnstable Intermediate School (Falmouth Road (Rt. 28), Hyannis, MA). The SEPAC meeting begins at 6:00. Voting for officers will take place. The presentation, **Children's Behavioral Health Initiative** (Justice Resource Institute) begins at 6:30. This presentation is appropriate for all parents of all students.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Bent