



Special Education Parent Advisory Council Minutes

February 26, 2019 Meeting
Barnstable Intermediate School

Attendance Head Count: 6 including officers, parents, and district personnel

Children in Daycare: 2

Guest: Chris Wiklund, LIFE, Sasha McNamara, John McNamara; Susan Powers, CORD

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.

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.

The Importance of Understanding the Parents' Notice of Procedural Rights

A parent shared the importance of understanding the **Parents' Notice of Procedural Rights**.

- There is a federal statute that requires Districts to provide prior written notice. Under IDEA, parents have *the right to receive prior written notice from the school each time that the school proposes to take (or refuses to take) certain actions with respect to your child*. Specifically, the school must provide parents with prior written notice each time that it:
 - proposes to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of your child
 - proposes to initiate or change the provision of FAPE to your child (their free and appropriate education)
 - **refuses to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of your child**
 - **refuses to initiate or change the provision of FAPE to your child**

This notice must be sent to parents in their native language or other mode of communication used by the parent. School districts must ensure that parents understand the content of this notice. (Federal Regulation §300.503)

Describe any refusal to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, educational placement or the provision of special education services by answering the following questions:

1. *What action is the school district refusing to take?*
2. *Why is the school district refusing to act?*
3. *What rejected options were considered and why was each option rejected?*

4. *What evaluation procedure, test, record or report was used as a basis for the refusal to act?*
5. *What other factors were relevant to the school district's decision?*
6. *What next steps, if any, are recommended?*

Prior Written Notice is critical for parents who request services and/or accommodations and the District refuses to make sure the history is clearly documented for parent requests should a parent need to seek BSEA intervention. Receiving the notice does not impact the District's decision, it simply provides required documentation for the refusal.

Everything that comes up as an option during an IEP meeting needs to be documented by the District.

Comments/Suggestions from Parents Included

- A parent asked if the law requires DRAFT IEPs be given to parents before the IEP meeting. Kathy Bent responded that she has been told by the PRS representative at the state, that if all team members have a copy of the DRAFT IEP, then parents are supposed to receive a copy. She also shared information last year with the Assistant Director of Special Education from the Federal Register indicating that parents should receive DRAFT IEPs prior to the meeting when one is prepared.
- A parent who teaches in Mashpee mentioned that DRAFT IEPs are sent home several days before the meeting so that a parent can review the draft before the meeting.
- **Comment forms are available at each meeting and on the SEPAC website for those parents who cannot make meetings or who prefer to submit comments anonymously.**

Chris Wiklund, Assistant Director for Community Support, LIFE, Inc. was introduced. Chris shared information about their programs. LIFE is an adult services program (ages 18+) and pre-employment services for young adults ages 14-22.

Influence vs. Control: Fostering Independence for Young Adults

Sasha and John McNamara – Hayland, Inc.

John McNamara, founder of Halyard Services, presented on facilitating independence and guiding the transition from adolescence to adulthood for those with language-based learning difficulties. John's philosophy is that the lessons of adulthood cannot be taught, rather must be learned. He shared techniques and approaches he uses everyday to foster healthy boundaries, expectations and communication with his adolescent and adult clients, as they navigate the real world relationships and responsibilities. He also spoke of the importance of 688 referral process (autism spectrum or IQ below 70) from Department of Developmental Services for those seeking these types of transition services.

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, March 26 at Barnstable Intermediate School (Falmouth Road (Rt. 28), Hyannis, MA). The SEPAC meeting begins at 6:00. 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 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Bent