



Special Education Parent Advisory Council Minutes

November 5, 2015 Meeting
Barnstable United Elementary School

Attendance Head Count: 11 including officers, parents, and district personnel. 7 children in Child Care.

SEPAC Business Meeting

President Jeannie Randall called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., welcomed everyone, and expressed her appreciation for Principal Mary Sullivan hosting the meeting.

President Jeanne Randall reported that she and Kathy Bent, SEPAC Vice President, attended a meeting on October 23 with School Committee Chair Margeaux Weber and Interim Superintendent Bill Butler to discuss the concerns reported by parents. Unfortunately, Dr. Jezard was not able to attend due to another school commitment. Superintendent Butler will be meeting with Dr. Jezard to review the concerns. Our next meeting with the administration is scheduled for January 2016 when we expect to receive feedback.

Jeannie explained that this portion of the meeting is to gather input for improving special education to pass on to the district administration. **Confidential Comment Forms** are available at every meeting and on the SEPAC website. These can be dropped off, emailed, or mailed to the SEPAC PO Box on the form.

Comments/Suggestions from Parents Included:

- A parent reported that she offered to donate a registration to the MA Down Syndrome Congress Educator's Forum Conference for a staff member at her daughter's school. She thanked Dr. Jezard for sending two staff members from West Villages to the conference using District funding.
- A concern was expressed regarding how therapy sessions are made up when the service provider is out. A parent noted that the communication sheet usually indicates when the OT/PT/SPL service has not occurred, but she never receives notice that the session was made up. The explanation provided was that when a child is absent, the therapy session is not made up. When the service provider is out every effort is made to make up sessions, however it is not always possible due to scheduling/staffing issues. Parents should ask the service provider for information if the therapy is not made up within a reasonable period of time.
- A parent mentioned that it would be helpful to have time for parent discussions to pick up helpful information. The example provided was that she was able to receive a tablet for communication with help from Spaulding Rehab and if she had been aware of this a few years ago it would have really helped her son.
- A parent of a pre-teen is looking for information on an ABA contact. Her child had received excellent services in the past, but she has not been able to locate help for this age-level.
- Dr. Jezard reported that, in general, she recommends **Family Continuity** as an agency for parents to receive help. She recently worked with Terriann Polumbo on a difficult case with great success. Information about this agency is available on their website, <http://familycontinuity.org> and the phone number is (508) 862-0600. A link to this agency will be posted under *Resources* on the SEPAC website.
- Kathy Bent mentioned that one activity that SEPAC could eventually become involved with is advocating for special education funding at the state and federal levels. This would be

accomplished using a concerted effort to lobby our state and federal representatives and senators with this concern.

ByLaws VOTING → The proposed ByLaws revision will be voted on at the January 13 meeting. To be eligible to vote, members needed to attend one previous meeting this school year. A member is any parent/guardian of a child receiving special education services in the district or who is a resident of Barnstable.

REMINDERS → Child care is available at every meeting. Again this year SEPAC has a rotating schedule (both days of the week and building sites—remember to check the schedule carefully or the SEPAC website--www.barnstablesepac.com).

All About Inclusion - POSTPONED

SEPAC is working on rescheduling this presentation. Due to a family emergency Dr. Jorgensen was not able to make the meeting.

Announcements

The next meeting is Wednesday, January 13 at Hyannis West Elementary School (549 West Main Street, Hyannis). The SEPAC meeting begins at 5:45. The workshop, ***Ask the Advocate!*** begins at 6:30. Please come with your questions—this is a time when you can ask a trained advocate specific questions about your IEP or 504.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Bent