



Special Education Parent Advisory Council Minutes

October 13, 2015 Meeting
Centerville Elementary School

Attendance Head Count: 17 including officers, parents, and district personnel; 8 children in Child Care.

SEPAC Business Meeting

President Jeannie Randall called the meeting to order at 5:54 p.m., welcomed everyone. Introductions were made.

Jeannie noted purpose of the meeting is to gather input for improving special education to submit to the district administration. The next meeting is October 23 with Jane Jezard, Director of Special Education, Bill Butler, Interim Superintendent, and Margeaux Weber, Chair of the School Committee. Parents were asked for suggestions for meeting topics.

The latest version of the proposed ByLaws was distributed and is available on the website. A change was made removing the Mission and replacing it with the Vision and Core Values of the District. The Mission is no longer used by the District. **Voting has been postponed to the Wednesday, January 13, 2016 meeting.** If you have any concerns please bring them to the November 5 meeting or email barnsepac@gmail.com.

Parents were reminded to complete the Superintendent Search Survey on the district's website (a link to it is on the SEPAC website). Kathy Bent, Vice President SEPAC, is serving on the search committee.

Comments/Suggestions from Parents Included:

- A parent provided concerns on behalf of a few parents who were not able to attend the meeting:
 - The first concern was communication between school and home--the information provided by the school is vague and does not have enough detail. A suggestion was made to make sure the teacher is aware of the kind of information desired. One parent volunteered that she provided a communication sheet so that it was easy for the teacher to complete and send home the information she wanted.
 - The second concern involved the lack of communication from the paraprofessional. Parents whose children have a paraprofessional are frustrated and not able to carry over to home or have meaningful communication with students regarding their day.
- The parent of a preschooler questioned why his child was not able to be a peer at the integrated preschool. Stephanie Markwell, Special Education Coordinator at the Preschool, explained that it was because only English-speaking children were able to be peers since they would be modeling language to the special needs classmates. Later in the meeting, Stephanie Markwell informed the group that she had just checked her email and learned that non-English-speaking peers would be accepted. She encouraged the parent to contact her at the school the next day.
- Parents new to special education services were not aware of SEPAC being an official organization. Jeannie Randall explained the purpose a SEPAC.
- One parent asked about how to get an evaluation for a speech delay for a 4-year-old.
- One parent mentioned that he has to be a strong advocate for his child in order to get appropriate services.
- **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.**

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. SEPAC is seeking input on the proposed ByLaws revision and suggestions for meeting topics (discussion topics and/or presentations).

Understanding Your Child's Learning Style

Faith Morgan presented **Understanding Your Child's Learning Style**. Designed by the Federation of Children with Special Needs this presentation explained the different ways children take in and generate information and how those different ways can greatly affect how and whether they succeed in school and in life. Participants will learn about various learning styles and how they can be understood and harnessed to achieve success in many different environments, including the classroom. A link to the presentation is on the SEPAC website.

Announcements

The next meeting is Thursday, November 5 at Barnstable United Elementary School (730 Osterville-W. Barnstable Road, Marstons Mills). The SEPAC meeting begins at 5:45. The presentation, **All About Inclusion**, begins at 6:30.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Bent