



Special Education Parent Advisory Council Minutes

September 24, 2019 Meeting
Barnstable Intermediate School

Attendance Head Count: 27 including officers, parents, and district personnel (5 new people new to the district)

Children in Daycare: 8

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. She mentioned that the original speaker had cancelled and an all-call message made to inform parents of the change.

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.

Susan Power, from CORD, explained the services provided to families on the Cape.

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 request came through the Comment Form for a Mass Health presentation. Kathy Bent will work on getting this scheduled. There was a Mass Health presentation a few years ago with feedback indicating it was helpful.
- Summer Services – a parent reported students receiving EYS tutoring services were not scheduled until July again this year. Since all summer activities require registration by the end of June, it was difficult—and in some cases impossible—to schedule summer services. This was also the case for speech services. Service providers indicated that they were only given student information in July.
- A parent indicated the last few years it has been an issue – very short window -- service providers are very limited in what is available.
- Gina Hurley reported there is a new registration process at the Family & Community Engage Center (F&CEC) which is located at the Hyannis Youth & Community Center (HYCC) in Hyannis.
- A parent responded they F&CEC was a little shorthanded at the end of August so it was difficult to get registered and the student had to start later than the first day.
- A parent reported the beginning of the school year presented transition issues – there appeared to be a lack of communication between the previous grade-level teachers and the current year’s teachers. Support staff were not in place for the start of the school year.
- This is the first year there is a split directorship. Her child will be in the first group transitioning from your group to the 6-12 group and questioned how this is going to work. Response from C. Zinni: She and Eric Bruinooge work well together and meet regularly.

There are transition activities that already take place which are individualized based on student needs.

- Parent asked: When does this happen? Talking about it starts in March – looking at whole 60-80 students moving from one grade level to the next. Budgeting starts March which can be tricky. Transition meetings start in May with families that need it.
- Catherine Zinni recommended families attend public functions at their next school to become familiar with new school.
- Parent reported a big problem is that teachers don't see IEPs until the first professional day of the school year so nobody knows the student because there isn't enough time to review them.
- New parent: Is there something that could be done at the end of the year take a day or two (half days) as a group to go over to the new building. Eric Bruinooge responded that this is happening with some small groups of students.
- Parent Suggestion: Requested paper notices for meetings. Kathy Bent indicated we used to send home paper notices via backpack mail PreK through grade 7, but the practice was stopped when the District required all electronic notices.
- Parent comment: Teachers need the IEPs before the school year starts so they have them ahead of time if they want to read them.
- Eric Bruinooge: Professional development is being offered this year as a choice of strands. one of which is UDI (universal design instruction).
- Parent Question: Her child is in Crossroads Program – No communication/feedback is coming from school. Emailing the teacher and calling the coordinator did not help provide the communication. This student struggles with change, especially with all new school staff and the student is very frustrated. Eric Bruinooge: to find out who to reach out to—call principal or director.
- New parent: When does an IEP meeting occur for new students to the District. Eric Bruinooge responded with how the IEP process works in the District.
- **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.**

Meet & Greet Catherine Zinni

SEPAC welcomed the new Director of Special Education for PreK through Grade 5. In summary her goal is: *"I would like to make tomorrow a better day than today."*

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, October 29 at Barnstable Intermediate School (Falmouth Road (Rt. 28), Hyannis, MA). The SEPAC meeting begins at 6:00. The presentation, **Homework Strategies that Work!** begins at 6:30. This presentation is appropriate for all parents.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Bent