



Special Education Parent Advisory Council

Minutes

September 21, 2015 Meeting
West Villages Elementary School

Attendance Head Count: 21, including officers, parents, and district personnel

Guests: Mike Judge, Candidate for School Committee
Margeaux Weber, Chair School Committee

SEPAC Business Meeting

President Jeannie Randall called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m., welcomed everyone, and thanked Principal Kirk Gibbons for hosting the meeting.

Jeannie noted purpose of the meeting is to gather input for improving special education to submit to the district administration. The proposed revision to the ByLaws was distributed and is available on the website. If you have any concerns or changes please bring them to the October 13 meeting or email barnsepac@gmail.com. Discussion will be at the October 13 meeting and voting will occur at the November 5 meeting.

Comments/Suggestions from Parents Included:

- A request for a presentation on bullying was made. The parent was concerned about information being available on what constitutes "bullying," inconsistencies with how she has seen bullying handled in the District, and suggestions for preventing bullying situations. SEPAC leadership will follow-up on this.
- A parent mentioned that she found the presentation on Support for Siblings helpful and thought it would be nice to schedule it again.
- Clarification on the "chain of command" for resolving problems was requested. Dr. Jezard responded that each school level is different and provided the information.
- Kathy Bent commented that Dr. Jezard's Coffee Hour held on September 15 was attended by four parents. Several parents raised issues during the meeting. Dr. Jezard commented that she had followed-up with staff on one of the concerns brought forward regarding the use of food for positive behavior reinforcement.
- A short discussion was held regarding the start of the new school year which in most cases seemed to go smoothly.
- At the end of the meeting, one parent voiced concern about the special education administration being right there which caused some hesitation speaking up about a concern. She was encouraged to complete a comment form and submit it.
- A parent expressed concern about the lack of peer students in the preschool classrooms.
- **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.**

Mike Judge introduced himself as a candidate for School Committee and encouraged parents to email him if with questions or for more information (Judge4Barnstable@comcast.net).

Margeaux Weber, Chair of the School Committee, announced that the search committee for hiring a new superintendent has met and the process is in full swing. She invited parents to participate in one of the forums scheduled for gathering information on important issues and input regarding the qualities desired for a new superintendent. Parents are also encouraged to complete the online survey posted on the District's web site:

<http://www.barnstable.k12.ma.us/site/default.aspx?PageID=1>

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).

Parents Rights

Cindi Trinidad presented the **Basic Rights Workshop in Special Education**. This workshop designed by the Federation of Children with Special Needs to provided families with an introduction to their rights and responsibilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Massachusetts Special Education Law. It helped parents learn to be effective partners with their child's school to decide their child's eligibility for special education, and to plan, make decisions and monitor their child's progress in school. The PowerPoint presentation is posted to the SEPAC website (click on *Meetings*).

Announcements

The next meeting is Tuesday, October 13 at Centerville Elementary School (658 Bay Lane, Centerville). The SEPAC meeting begins at 5:45. The workshop, ***Understanding My Child's Learning Style***, begins at 6:30.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Bent