



Special Education Parent Advisory Council

Minutes

September 27, 2017 Meeting
Hyannis West Elementary School

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

Children in Daycare: 3

Guests:

SEPAC Business Meeting

President Kathy Bent called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m., welcomed everyone, and thanked Principal Kathi Amato 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.

Comments/Suggestions from Parents Included:

- A parent reported that after advocating strongly at her IEP review meeting last a team meeting was held in May with her child's new teachers to ensure that the new teachers had the IEP and would be ready for the beginning of the school year. This helped with the transition to 7th grade.
- Another parent reported a good transition to BUE for this school year.
- A parent with a child in the 18-22 year-old program (Transition Program) suggested that a name for that program be determined.
- A parent asked why curriculum for students receiving specialized instruction via special education was not in line with District K-3 curriculum and how this could be corrected. -- Dr. Jezard responded that she did not have an answer.
- A parent asked how and when is it determined that a child be on MCAS-Alt instead of taking MCAS -- Dr. Jezard responded that this is a team decision and should be revisited annually. If MCAS-Alt is in the IEP and the parent declines it, the parent needs to reject the MCAS-Alt.
- A parent asked how many children on MCAS-Alt graduate with a high school diploma. -- Dr. Jezard responded that she is not aware of any.
- A suggestion to have the Benefit Coordinator with Mass Rehab present was made -- Julie Clymer volunteered to make the contact and set up a 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.**

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 Facebook for the updated information or the SEPAC website--www.barnstablesepac.com).

Parents' Rights Presentation

Linda Saffle 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. Parents received information

on how to be effective partners with their children's schools to decide their child's eligibility for special education, and to plan, make decisions and monitor their children's progress in school. The PowerPoint presentation is posted to the SEPAC website (click on *Meetings*).

Announcements

The next meeting is Wednesday, October 25 at West Villages Elementary School (760 Osterville-West Barnstable Road, Marstons Mills). The SEPAC meeting begins at 5:45. The workshop, *Effective Communication Strategies (with your Team)*, begins at 6:30.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Bent