



Barnstable Public Schools

Special Education Parent Advisory Council

Massachusetts Special Education Law (Section 3 of Chapter 71B) requires every school district to have a SEPAC. This council is charged with:

*"...The parent advisory council duties shall include but not be limited to: advising the school committee on matters that pertain to the education and safety of student with disabilities; meeting regularly with school officials to **participate in the planning, development, and evaluation of school committee's special education programs.** ..."*

August 15, 2016

Welcome to the new school year! We are excited to be part of an organization focused on improving special education in the district. This is an important year for SEPAC as we try to make progress towards improving special education in Barnstable. **Your input and participation** is critical to help improve the education of students with Special Needs in Barnstable.

We begin this year with a new change in SEPAC leadership. Last April four members-at-large were elected in addition to the President and Vice-President to lead SEPAC and assist with making real changes for children receiving special education services. Please welcome the 2016-17 Officers:

- President – **Jeannie Randall**
- Vice-President – **Kathy Bent**
- Members-at-Large: **Mary Brahms, Selissa Johnson, Kenneth (Dan) Luechauer, Tracy Miller**

Who can belong? Everyone is welcome! Membership is encouraged for all parents of children who receive services and for others who are interested in special education. This includes not only children on IEPs, but also children on 504s, and parents who think their children may need services.

The meeting format will be the same as last year:

- The first part of the meeting will be for SEPAC business—hearing your thoughts, concerns, and suggestions as to how special education can be improved, or to communicate what is working.
- Special presentations will follow the meeting.
- Parents are always welcome to stay after the presentation if you need more time to talk.

Child care, pizza and drinks will be available as we have done in the past.

Monthly Meetings! The meeting schedule is on the back of this letter. Please mark your calendars and remember to include the location (meeting days and locations rotate to reach more people).

Visit the website regularly www.barnstablesepac.com or check our Facebook page for updates. Email us at barnsepac@gmail.com — your suggestions will help us improve SEPAC so that you find it a worthwhile organization. A **Comment Form** and a **SEPAC Survey Form** are online and will help us improve SEPAC and the education of our children. The **Wind Beneath My Wings Award** nomination form is also on the website.

This is YOUR parent advisory council. Be involved to help improve special education services in Barnstable Public Schools.

We look forward to seeing you at our **first meeting/presentation on Monday, September 19 from 5:45-7:45 p.m. at BUE.**

Respectfully,
Jeannie Randall, President