



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, 2017

Welcome to the 2017-18 school year! We are excited to be part of an organization charged with advising the school committee on matters pertaining to special education in the district. This is an important year for SEPAC as we participate in the planning, development, and evaluation of special education programs in Barnstable. **Your input and participation** is critical to help improve the education of our students with Special Needs in Barnstable.

We begin this year with a new change in SEPAC leadership. Please welcome the 2017-18 Officers:

- President – **Kathy Bent**
- Vice-President – *vacant*
- Members-at-Large: **Julie Clymer, 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 meetings begin with SEPAC business—communicating what is working and hearing your thoughts, concerns, and suggestions for changes in programs and services. **The information gathered will be presented to Special Education Administration, the Superintendent, and the School Committee. Our focus this year is dedicated to working with the District to improve our children's education.**
- Special presentations will follow each meeting.

Child care, pizza and water 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 the location rotates monthly. An updated schedule will be provided once all topics and speakers are confirmed.

Visit the website regularly www.barnstablesepac.com or check our Facebook page for updates. A **Comment Form**, a **SEPAC Survey Form**, and the **Wind Beneath My Wings Award Nomination Form** can be found on the website for your convenience. You can email us at barnsepac@gmail.com.

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

We look forward to seeing you at our **first meeting/presentation on Wednesday, September 27 from 5:45-7:45 p.m. at Hyannis West Elementary School.**

Respectfully,
Kathleen Bent, President