



Barnstable Public Schools

Special Education Parent Advisory Council

August 10, 2019

Welcome to the 2019-20 school year! Please extend a warm welcome to the new Director of Special Education for Pre-K through Grade 5, **Catherine Zinni**. She comes to Barnstable with a solid background in special education and also school administration. We encourage parents, especially those with children at this level, to join us welcoming her at our first SEPAC meeting on **Tuesday, September 24 at 6:00 p.m. in the Barnstable Intermediate School cafeteria**. Ms. Zinni shared great ideas for Barnstable during her interview and expressed a desire to meet families.

This is an important year for SEPAC as we continue to work 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.

This year's officers carried over from last school year since we did not have voting members present at the April meeting: President – **Kathy Bent**, Vice-President – *vacant*, Members-at-Large: **Julie Clymer, Selissa Johnson, Kenneth (Dan) Luechauer**, and **Tracy Miller**.

Please mark the monthly meetings on your calendar and plan to attend. Why? *There is strength in numbers!* Your ideas are needed to help us ensure your children receive the best possible education in Barnstable. Parents/guardians of children who receive services on an IEP or 504, and others interested in special education, have first-hand knowledge of what their children need in school. You will be able to make connections with and get support from others who have similar circumstances. **SEPAC meetings are the perfect place to talk about the issues and learn what you can do to help your child be successful.**

Monthly Meetings! Last Tuesday of the Month @ 6:00 p.m. September through April at **Barnstable Intermediate School Cafeteria** – 895 Falmouth Road (Rt. 28), Hyannis – no meeting in December.

- 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. Again, we need to work together to improve special education in the District.
- Special presentations will follow SEPAC business at 6:30 p.m.
- **Round-table conversations** will be added this year. Please email or message us using Facebook to provide discussion topics you are interested in.

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

The meeting schedule is on the back of this letter. Mark your calendar now. Updates will be provided on both Facebook and the website once all topics and speakers are confirmed.

Visit our website regularly www.barnstablesepac.com or check our Facebook page for updates. 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 on Tuesday, September 24 ~ 6 p.m. at Barnstable Intermediate School. Meet & Greet Catherine Zinni** begins at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully, *Kathleen Bent*, President