



Barnstable Public Schools

Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)

August 16, 2020

Welcome to the 2020-21 school year!

First, I would like to thank past SEPAC president Kathy Bent for all of her years of service as SEPAC Vice President and President. In November, she was elected to a position on the Barnstable School Committee. She stepped down from the position as SEPAC president to avoid any conflicts of interest. The SEPAC Executive Board appointed me as President to fill the vacancy. It is with sincere gratitude, that I thank her for her years of service with SEPAC and for her continued and unwavering support for our students.

Although the last six months have been full of change and uncertainty in our children's education, SEPAC remains committed to assist the district in improving the special education services to students in Barnstable. SEPAC is planning to increase the support to parents and guardians as we navigate how the Covid 19 changes affect students on IEP's and 504s.

Our monthly meetings will resume on September 24; however, they will be via Zoom rather than in person. The meetings will follow a slightly different format focusing heavily on learning your rights under the law and strategies for parents and guardians to help to ensure compliance for their children.

Additionally, we are very pleased the Barnstable School Committee has committed to holding two SEPAC workshops a year (October and April) providing our membership an opportunity to share ideas with them directly identifying what is going well and areas in Special Education needing improvement.

Why attend? *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. 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. **SEPAC meetings are the perfect place to receive support and to learn what you can do to help your child be successful.**

Monthly Meetings will be held September → May on the last Thursday of the Month @ 6:00 p.m.

Exceptions: November 3rd Thursday ~ October/April 1st Wednesday. We will be meeting via **Zoom** on the following reoccurring link **865 2443 0304**. **The full meeting schedule is on the back of this letter.** Updates will be provided on the SEPAC website www.barnstablesepac.com if changes are made.

***If you would like to receive a monthly update please email us at barnsepac@gmail.com and request to be put on our distribution list. ***

We look forward to seeing you on Zoom at our **first meeting on Thursday, September 24 at 6 p.m.** We are here to help and support you so please don't hesitate to reach out. Getting involved will help to improve special education services in the Barnstable Public Schools.

2020-2021 Officers: President – **Linda Letourneau**, Vice-President – **vacant**, Members-at-Large: **Julie Clymer, Selissa Johnson, Dan Luechauer, and Tracy Miller.** (carried over from 2019-20 due to COVID).

Respectfully, Linda Letourneau