

Sudbury Special Education Parent Advisory Council

Sudbury SEPAC

Meeting Minutes for October 7, 2013

Superintendent's Office Conference Room, 40 Fairbank Road, Sudbury, MA

Present: S. Mittlestadt, L. Kouchakdjian, P. Moyer, D. Dixson, L. Vecchio, A. Bartolini, O. Jennings, S. Nassa, J. Seney, J. Cohen, B. Hoffman, J. Jackson and Dr. Wilson

Old Business

1. Minutes from September meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

1. 50/50 raffles-\$475 as of right now. One more back to school night at Curtis. Dr. Wilson or D. Dixson will pull the winner.
2. Lisa will get cash and split it.
3. Most of the upcoming speakers are for free. We just have to provide light refreshments.

New Business/Assignments:

1. Olga came up with the idea for a donation for Sped. Teachers. Debbie will take a brief moment at our next meeting to inform the board about changes in the Sped. Department.
2. Lisa K. talked about the parent survey for Special Education that will go out to parents at the end of October. She reported that some parents had an issue with confidentiality with Survey Monkey. Andrew came up with the idea for Survey Gizmo instead. Many benefits to this program such as ability to present a power point, substance of comments will remain confidential and this will make families more comfortable.
3. Paula talked about the various events that SEPAC is sponsoring. She handed out flyers to distribute.
4. Other workshop ideas were discussed. Many parents want a transition meeting in early January for eighth graders that will be entering Lincoln-Sudbury. Workshop will alleviate some of the fears of the parents and students. There will be a trip to the high school in April or early May.
5. Parent Socials have started-Lisa K. is offering coffee hours at her house once a month. There are also socials at various restaurants in town. The first social was held at 29 in Sudbury on 9/28.
6. Facebook account was created by Jess. Wants everyone to "Like It". Jess and Paula are the only ones that can post things. Scott talked about how we should change the account from public to private.
7. Paula reminded everyone that if they wanted to talk about anything they could e-mail her for the next meeting.

Superintendent's Report

1. Dr. Wilson spoke to the group about MCAS results and plans for inclusion in the SPS. In August there was a full day professional development with two specialists in special education, Joe Pickner (former principal in Cambridge who had a full inclusion school) and Ann Howard (Professor at Fitchburg State College) also presented about the idea of having Fitchburg State College students work with special needs students. Dr. Wilson talked about observing good practices in inclusion and areas where the system needs to grow. The needs of LD students is

changing and Sudbury needs to serve the changing needs. Math and ELA Curriculum Heads are working very closely with Sped.

2. "Including Samuel" a documentary on special education students was shown to the staff. Teachers were asked to think about how does it apply to us? Teachers were asked to think about this documentary as a teacher, parent and administrator.
3. Dr. Wilson is sending five teachers to the Down Syndrome Conference in November.
4. MCAS results were shared for the district. The high needs category in LA is above the state but it still needs to be higher. Sudbury is a Level 2 district. There is a larger gap in Math compared to Language Arts. Just the students with disabilities scores declined in the last two years. One reason could be the change with the common core. Dr. Wilson would like to see Math and ELA MCAS scores match.
5. Dr. Wilson is going to share the result of 6th grade MCAS scores at the school committee meeting on Wednesday night. SPS is below the state in Math.
6. Dr. Wilson also talked about some new programs that are happening at the middle school level. One on-line program is called Assistments. This program allows students to do homework electronically and teachers are able to see where students are right away. Another program is the 1:1 Pilot with Chrome Books. Teachers and students are able to post comments about their assignments which is very helpful for students and teachers.

Prepared by: J. Seney