

Sudbury Special Education Parent Advisory Council

Sudbury SEPAC

Meeting Minutes for March 3, 2014

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

Present: Sara Houle, Paula Moyer, Lisa Kouchakdjian, Lisa Vecchio, Debbie Dixson, Olga Jennings, Jenn Seney and Laura Demerle

Old Business

1. Minutes from January 27, 2014 meeting postponed until next meeting pending amendments.

Treasurer's Report

1. None

New Business/Assignments:

1. Article was done and submitted for iPad talk scheduled for next Tuesday. Lisa K will handle snacks/beverages.
2. No date for ADHD talk due to Passover (April 15th). Matt Reid had suggested April 29th. We will reschedule ADHD talk to April 29th. Paula will send email to Matt Reid to confirm. Lisa K. will cancel Senior Center for the 15th and will then reschedule venue for ADHD talk.
 - 2(a). Debbie Dixson will send email to everyone re: upcoming events. Paula will send blurbs to Debbie re: same.
 - 2(b). Maynard is hosting a bullying talk at the High School auditorium on May 5th from 7-9 pm.
3. RE: Survey results – action items – School committee says SEPAC is task force? Paula points out – we are parents, not educators, and suggests Team Chairs be on the Task Force.
 - a. Per Debbie – bulk of issues stem from communication. Presenting to Team Chairs, OT/PT group. They had lots of good ideas. Draft IEP – parents don't like (feel overwhelmed, ambushed). Lisa K suggested punch list meetings. Debbie feels not legal. What about providing parents with copy of draft IEP prior to meeting? Debbie says not going to happen because parents will then rewrite the whole thing. Per Olga – In CT, the week before the IEP meetings, meets with SPED teacher (who has already talked to TEAM) to discuss goals/services. Debbie is trying to make process more human. Reaching out to parents via liaison (SPED teacher) with a phone call what do parents want? More outreach – call parents and let them know what is going on each step of the way. Per Lisa K – personal liaison, maybe someone (2 or 3 people) from SEPAC to hold parents' hands. Make sure the family is feeling comfortable with the process or has someone to call to ask questions.
 - b. Per Laura – what about the kids whose parents feel their children have “fallen through the cracks?” Debbie indicates they are “chipping away at it,” i.e., had Sarah Ward in.
 - c. Per Paula – Christie White (SPEDucate – blog, website). She will help us analyze the survey, pick out a few key things that need to be done, maybe help with

- recommendations. Maybe write some sort of SEPAC parent handbook, not just about policy/procedure, but tips on how to make the process less scary.
- d. Olga suggested SEPAC get phone number (!). Debbie will look into it.
 - e. Per Debbie – from Team Chair – SEPAC needs to clean up the website (FAQs, specifically).
4. Upcoming Events – Post flyers to Moms’ groups. Debbie will send out emails. Others will post flyers around town.
 - a. See if Dan Levine (Engaging Minds) can do talk in May on Executive Function.
 - b. Transitions – Mark Globerson was to talk to Aida Ramos (Dir of Student Services at the High School). Debbie is talking with her this week.
 5. May 6, 2014 – Teacher Appreciation Day. Debbie will get us a list of teachers. Lisa and Jenn have offered to bake.
 6. CRANE – Just got funding. Website – want to get experts in particular fields to do 3-4 min video interviews. Betsy Graham wants Debbie to do one, and Paula (parent) to do one.

Adjourned: 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Laura Demerle, Secretary

Future SEPAC Meetings/Events:

March 11th – 7 p.m. - How to use the iPad to Improve Communication Skills (Goodnow Library)

March 15th - 7:00pm - Parent Social, Lavender, Route 20, Sudbury

March 28th – 10 a.m. – Parent Coffee – 30 Meadowbrook Circle

April 7th - 7:00pm - SEPAC meeting, SPS Offices

April 10th - 7:00pm - Parent Social, Acapulcos, Route 20, Sudbury

April 29th - Managing ADHD in Children and Pre-adolescents (TBA)

April 30th – 10 a.m. – Parent Coffee – 30 Meadowbrook Circle

May 5th - 7:00pm - SEPAC meeting, SPS Offices

May 16th - 7:00pm - Parent Social, Bistro 20, Route 20, Sudbury

May 29th – 10 a.m. – Parent Coffee – 30 Meadowbrook Circle

June 2nd - 7:00pm - SEPAC meeting, SPS Offices

June 7th - 7:00pm – Parent Social, 29 Sudbury, Sudbury