

Sudbury Special Education Parent Advisory Council

Sudbury SEPAC

Meeting Minutes for April 7, 2014

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

Present: Christie White, Sara Houle, Paula Moyer, Lisa Kouchakdjian, Lisa Vecchio, Debbie Dixson, Jenn Seney, Stefanie Mittelstadt, Jess Cohen and Laura Demerle

Old Business

1. Minutes from January 27, 2014 and March 3, 2014 meetings were approved.

Treasurer's Report

1. None.

New Business/Assignments:

1. Lisa V. made a form for us to use when trying to get reimbursed for purchases made for events. Debbie will review and amend. Once we have a final, the form is to be filled out and sent to Debbie and/or Karen Miller for approval. Debbie will follow up with Marilyn Holmes re: whether it is ok to scan/email receipts. Tax will not be reimbursed.
2. 2 different types of purchasing: Purchase Order – on SPS letterhead, SPS gets billed directly; and Reimbursement. Debbie can do a PO in September for the year. Paula has had issues getting reimbursed for ink (resolved) and SEPAC's domain name (still unresolved).
3. Christie White: Preschool SPED, teacher, advocate, TEAM chair, Educational consultant, blog writer (SPEDucated).
4. Themes she saw: 1. Meetings are rushed. 2. Lack of measurability of goals/objective data. 3. Jargon – common problem. 4. School using “waiting to fail” model. 5. Access to assistive technology, its role. 6. Administrative pressure on staff re: services, eligibility. 7. Eligibility determinations – how made? Many parents went to private sources to get. 8. Inclusion – for whom is it useful/not useful? Role in IEP. 9. Purpose/role of draft IEP. 10. Understanding of basic SPED process (timelines, etc.).
5. Christie advises there may be lots of other data collection projects going on (done by state?). Streamline data.
6. Paula asks re: themes: Is there a way to take this information, make recommendations and then measure progress?
7. Maybe do a handbook, flowchart or outline (or flyer – laminate – how to distribute). Christie will email us names of books/resources (she showed us several books that were helpful).
8. Debbie has been able to share with every school's SPED Dept. the survey results. Got ideas/feedback. They, too, have an idea similar to above – bullet lists, cheat sheets. Maybe Debbie will prepare a document and present to SEPAC for review/feedback.
9. Brainstorming session – several conversations going on at once.
10. Lisa K. asked about 2 meetings – talk first, then IEP meeting? Debbie thinks not feasible – takes TEAM out of classroom too much. Will have TEAM Chair call parents ahead of meeting time.
11. Topics on our website – maybe add link to SPEDucated?
12. Idea for presentation – setting up SPED/IEP binder.

13. Upcoming Events – April 17th – not on calendar? (Laura added immediately). Lisa will write article for Town Crier and attend. She will also write article for April 29th ADHD presentation.
14. May 5th SEPAC Board Meeting – moved to May 1st due to Maynard’s Bullying presentation.
15. Teacher Appreciation Day – May 6th. Lisa (and Jenn?) will bake cookies. Debbie will get number to Lisa. We will meet on Sunday, May 4th to put cookies together (if necessary).
16. Paula got sign in front of Fire Station!
17. Stefanie sent form for elections to Board Members.
18. Ideas for presentations for next year – Jess Curtin (Architects for Learning) – working memory. Dan Levine (Engaging Minds). Dr. Aimee Yermish (DaVinci Learning).

Adjourned: 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Laura Demerle, Secretary

Future SEPAC Meetings/Events:

April 29th – 7 p.m. - Managing ADHD in Children and Pre-adolescents, Goodnow Library

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

May 1st - 7:00pm - SEPAC meeting, SPS Offices

May 5th – 7:00 p.m. – Bullying presentation – Maynard High School

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 (Elections?)

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