

## Sudbury Special Education Parent Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes for October 7, 2014

Goodnow Library Crafts Room, 40 Fairbank Road, Sudbury, MA

Present: Paula Moyer, Lisa Kouchakdjian, Debbie Dixon, Jenn Seney, Stefanie Mittelstadt, Laura Demerle, Shana Kaplan, Lucie St. George (SC), Scott Nassa (SC), and Rebecca Robichaud from Concord SEPAC

#### **Old Business**

1. Minutes from August 19, 2014 meetings were approved but noted that Jennifer Pender's last name should be Seney.

#### **New Business/Assignments:**

1. SEPAC events: Minor edits to Levine and Basic Rights flyers — please post everywhere.
2. Side note about the recent Sara Ward event at Nixon and the one upcoming at Loring. We should be promoting these. Is there a policy about PTOs and if they are sponsoring an event is it for the whole district or just that school? Anne Wilson will probably talk with the PTO chairs about this. Maynard SEPAC just sponsored an event with their PTOs and it was very successful. This totally makes sense.
3. Discussion about reimbursement. Have to contact Karen Miller to get a PO filled out. So when you have an estimate of what you will need for an event, get the PO done in advance (by contacting Karen with details) and use that money. Debbie Dixon will ask Mary Will for guidelines. She will also ask for a spreadsheet from Mary Will with our balance each month. Another thing is that we can use a "Friends of the Sudbury SEPAC" account. Let's look into this.
4. Need a high-level strategy for the site before we spend a lot of time to update. Will it be a resource? a place to find out about events? for newcomers to Sudbury or SpEd? Shana suggests that we make it clearer about how to contact SEPAC if you're new. Make our site clearer to read. CRANE has different "topics" in the organization of their website — tabs per disability/topics. They also advertise all surrounding community's events.
5. Videotaping our events: no one
6. Tomorrow night is a school committee meeting with the presentation of MCAS results by administration. Some comments on special needs sub-group and year-over-year trends. Debbie will be presenting in two weeks. Her presentation will focus on "one student at a time" to show personal growth rather than looking at the percentile only.
7. Raffle ticket sales were dismal. Placement of our tables weren't great. The bags were well-received at some schools and not at others.
8. Community response to town's special ed concerns. Shana said we should do a myths and facts flyer/Q&A with quick answers and places to find longer answers. Pull together a list of "myths" and write up the "facts" in a "did you know" sort-of voice to make sure it doesn't sound defensive or confrontational. Start with a flyer, turn it into a letter from the school committee, submit it to the Crier, etc. Shana will take the lead on pulling this together. Leslie Leslie probably has a lot to say about this. Jenn Seney, Lisa K, and Paula will help Shana.
9. Fundraising: Sibling groups are something many people have mentioned. Put together an event for just the sibs of students with special needs. Let's find out how much money we have as a PAC. Shoot for a springtime event. Also we could try to do a fundraiser with CJs Pizza per the way Lotus Blossom does it. Another possibility is that we can put on an "Antique Road Show" with Skinner giving us %. Debbie will get contact info. Also look into registering for Amazon Smile (need an EIN).

**Adjourned:** 9:00 p.m. and **Submitted by:** Paula Moyer, Secretary

#### **Future SEPAC Meetings/Events:**

10/15 coffee at Lisa's house

10/23 social at Lotus Blossom

10/28 Levine

11/3 Basic Rights

11/6 Brenda Dater

11/10 SEPAC Board Meeting (tentative)

11/17 Neil Blicher