

## Sudbury Special Education Parent Advisory Council Meeting Minutes for February 23, 2014

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

**Present:** Lisa Kouchakdjian, Shana Kaplan, Stefanie Mittelstadt, Jessica Sales-Cohen, Paula Moyer, Debbie Dixon  
7:05pm start

### **Old Business:**

Minutes from last meeting were approved, with the edit of adding that anxiety meeting is for incoming middle school families. Paula will fix and post.

Re missing Dec minutes: Lisa will take a look at the agenda and see if she can remember enough to fill in the blanks. [Paula found these 2/24 and forwarded for approval at next meeting.]

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

Interim treasurer should be appointed. Paula has been nominated as Interim Treasurer. Next meeting we will have elections for Treasurer position. Lisa will send out an email encouraging others to step forward.

Tomorrow night's meeting has already garnered some RSVPs. Flyer for Andrews needs to be done: Lisa will get info and Paula will create flyer. Debbie on the 19th. Bruce Sabian now on the 24th (we can't find the flyer for this -- check with Laura). Exceptional Lives penciled in for 3/31. Paula will do the flyer. When flyers are done, Lisa will write articles.

Shana: Four or five "myths" identified that we're going to tackle. What we spend on sped and how many kids we have (% of population). The take home point regarding spending is that, according to the data she reviewed, for fy2013 (the most recent year for which we have data), Sudbury spent the median as a percentage of its overall budget as compared to like communities (for these purposes, we compared Sudbury to the other top 20 school districts as ranked by Best of Boston in 2013, where Sudbury is ranked #16). The other point is that there are many factors going into the spending data, and it would take more analysis by someone with knowledge of the specific details regarding each of the towns to be able to use the data to draw meaningful conclusions about spending.

We're in the top 20 performers of K-8 districts in the state. About 14% of our children are sped. Direct Expenditures Trends Report was what Shana used at [doe.ma.edu/finance/statistics](http://doe.ma.edu/finance/statistics). So how do we present the sort of info that shows that we are in the 1/3 of the lowest % of sped population, yet we are in the top 1/3 of budget spent on sped (24% spent). Perhaps use DART as data? Shana will send the Excel data to Paula to make it look pretty in case we need it.

Feb 5th meeting: Lisa, Debbie, and Kim Swain. Busing protocol is drafted and on Anne's desk. Final will be distributed to all parents with students on vans. Aida Ramos (Debbie's equivalent at LS) meeting with Lisa K: Walker Report (program evaluation) focused on SpEd and one recommendation is that LS forms a SEPAC. Lisa offered our support and some ideas to help get volunteers. We will ask Aida to come to March meeting and bring a parent and try to get the outgoing 8th grade sped parents to come and meet her. Alexis Avila presentation discussed as well. He has the SAT prep class for kids on an IEP. Will see if we can fix Alexis into remainder of year.

Lisa will update us next month with future workshops for 2015-2016.

Fundraising update: Stef reports that good news is that SPS is on GuideStar. Bad news is that AmazonSmile still doesn't have us in their database. Still going back and forth with this.

Debbie scanned data that Shana was using and made a number of comments. Also Debbie talked about the contents that will be in her upcoming presentation.

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