

SEPAC Meeting Minutes

Date: January 12, 2016

ATTENDANCE

Present	Absent	Name	Role
	x	Laura Demerle	Vice-Chair, Event Coordinator
x		Pieter DuPlessis	Neighboring SEPACs Liaison
x		Bruce Hoffman	Treasurer
x		Shana Kaplan	Membership Coordinator
x		Lisa Kouchakdjian	School Committee Liaison to SEPAC
x		Stefanie Mittelstadt	Chair, Technology Coordinator
x		Paula Moyer	Secretary
	x	Jessica Sales Cohen	PTO Liaison, CRANE Liaison
	x	John Verre	Director of Student Services
x		Robin Jordan	Parent

Open Regular Session (Start Time: 7:35 p.m.).

1. Review and approve the minutes from the November and December meetings. [5 mins]

Summary of Discussion

- November and December approved

Decisions/Action Items

Who	What	When
Paula	convert drafts to approved, post on website	ASAP

2. Student Services Update, including topics such as discussion on changes to Extended School Year programming, Norman Bates childhood sexual abuse prevention workshop. [15 mins]

Summary of Discussion

- John Verre is absent so there's no update about ESY (Extended School Year) programming from Student Services, but there was some discussion among the parents at the meeting regarding their thoughts on ESY.
- Each family has different ideas. What we should do first is understand what the administration is thinking first before we start requesting our individual requests. Some of the different ideas include:
 - Increasing duration of the program (more weeks/ hours within the day) or adding some home services in some cases.
 - More structure along with the fun.
 - Make sure the staff has the right training and qualifications to prevent regression.

- Re: child sexual abuse prevention: John (absent) is still planning on meeting with attorney. District may be interested in staff training. For parents a presentation could be "tools you can use to prevent" abuse. Lisa K. is working on the SPS policy manual and will look at any general abuse prevention policies.

Decisions/Action Items

Who	What	When
John/child abuse prevention	meet with attorney	will let us know
John/child abuse prevention	will report to SEPAC	at the next meeting
John/ESY	will report to SEPAC	at the next meeting
Lisa K	SPS abuse policies	at the next meeting

3. APPLE Institute April 12-14, 2016 [5 mins]

Summary of Discussion

- APPLE parent leadership skills, coming up in April. Jessica Sales-Cohen has been and benefited a lot from attending.
- MassPAC invited three of us. John could invite team chairs? Come out of the conference with an action plan, not just taking notes.

Decisions/Action Items

Who	What	When
Stef/talk with John	about attending Institute	by the next meeting
Lisa, Robin, Bruce, Pieter	check dates if can attend	asap

4. Events: Executive Functioning, AAC, Dr. Hallowell [10 mins]

Summary of Discussion

- Beyond Booksmarts 2/24
- AAC (Kimberly Ho) -- Bruce will talk with Kim about setting a date
- Decided against Dr. Hallowell presentation
- Lisa K would like to propose a presentation about encouraging parents to identify possible issues and offering support to parents who are grappling with a diagnosis. Possible presentation from a psychologist?

Decisions/Action Items

Who	What	When
Bruce	talk with Kim	before next meeting
Lisa K	discuss with Anne Wilson about presentation for parents who need support	before next meeting

5. Fundraising, including restaurants and online, buddy benches and stand-up

desks [15 min]

Summary of Discussion

- DESE guidelines say town is supposed to manage a separate account for SEPAC. We can't get the funds from Amazon, though, because Town won't give Amazon their account #. Money is sitting there, waiting...
- How much do we have and how much do we need for Buddy Benches

Decisions/Action Items

Who	What	When
Bruce	Will meet with Mary Will	before next meeting
Jessica (absent)	Report back on Lotus Blossom dates	before next meeting
Shana	Will be in charge of the Buddy Bench for Loring: discuss with Loring PTO if they want to contribute/help, figure out how much money we need, facilitate the implementation of curriculum	provide update at next meeting
Estelle	Pieter volunteered his wife to be in charge of the kindergarten Buddy Bench for Haynes, but she wasn't there to confirm.	

6. School Committee News Update, if any [5 mins]

Summary of Discussion

- Budget "season" takes over!
- Walker Report: Anne has draft and report will be coming out "soon". Will look at those recommendations carefully
- Anne looking at programs for students with Autism -- may involve changes to the Partner Program (NECC) and/or Foundations. Restructuring programs? Pieter passionate about helping to define these programs and looking at how decision are made where children should attend.
- Perhaps have Stefanie present to the Committee on SEPAC activities in conjunction with John?
- Anyone can ask Lisa to bring up questions to Anne. Lisa meets with her once/twice a month privately and can pass along comments or concerns
- Coffees around a certain topic? Or a potluck?

Decisions/Action Items

Who	What	When

7. Updates from Officers (if present): Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, CRANE Liaison, Events Coordinator, Membership Coordinator, Neighboring SEPACs Liaison, PTO Liaison, Technology Coordinator [20 mins]

Summary of Discussion

- no time

Decisions/Action Items

Who	What	When

8. Identify and prioritize ideas for 2015-2016 including, but not limited to, fundraising, events, and collaboration with district administration and school committee. [10 mins]

Summary of Discussion

- no time

Decisions/Action Items

Who	What	When

9. Review and approve minutes and action items from this meeting. [5 mins]

Summary of Discussion

- no time

Decisions/Action Items

Who	What	When

10. Any requests for agenda items for the next meeting? [5 mins]

Summary of Discussion

- no time

Decisions/Action Items

Who	What	When

Next meeting February 9th.
Adjourn by 9:30 p.m.