

Hingham Public Schools Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)  
Wednesday, December 13, 2017  
Hingham Public Library  
Fearing Room  
7:00 pm- 9:00 pm

MEETING MINUTES

In Attendance: Katherine Gaughen, Jennifer Doan, Michelle Ayers, Liza O'Reilly and Kerry Ni

The Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM. Minutes from the September 13<sup>th</sup> SEPAC meeting were approved.

The financials are known to be the same at \$8997.75, however need to be updated with new balance. Motion for Snap Holiday Gift Card contribution in the amount of \$50 was approved.

CALENDAR and WORKGROUP UPDATES

School Committee Budget Dates (Liza O'Reilly provided calendar dates)

- SPED Sub-Committee Meeting - TBD within the next week to review the SPED budget before the larger budget meeting
- January 10<sup>th</sup> - SEPAC Business Meeting Dot Galo will present on the budget
- January Budget Meetings to be held on Thursday nights at 7pm
  - January 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> (Special Ed)
  - Tentatively January 25<sup>th</sup> (Potential Working Session)
- Full School Committee Meetings - January 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>
- January 31<sup>st</sup>. All Town School Forum (PTO)
- Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> - School Department presents to the joint Selectman and Advisory Committee for information
- February 27<sup>th</sup> - Advisory Board has a hearing on the budgets (Town Budgets are already under review)
- March 1<sup>st</sup> - Advisory Committee votes all budgets
- March 28<sup>th</sup> - Pizza polooza

*Additional Discussion on Budget Topic:*

Budget question from Katherine Gaughen:

- whether we know if there will be another Evaluation line item on next year's budget. Liza o' Reilly will note the question and update.
- Summer staff hours are a concern
- Personnel Director position

SPED Task force will meet again in January to discuss the High School Evaluation and prioritize the larger matrix. Along with priority and Cost of implementation will be discussed, plus Social Emotional Feedback

Large circuit breaker reimbursement last year, is creating a challenge this year, which will not be as much.

#### SECI TASK FORCE Update:

BU has been selected as the Middle School Evaluator. High School will be discussed next at the January meeting.

#### HTSS TASK FORCE update:

- No recent update at this time
- Final survey results will be discussed at the next meeting, date TBD
- In February they will present to the School Committee, date TBD

#### INCLUSION WEEK

Plan for next year to have whole district wide participation. SEPAC to discuss with Liz Kurlan and Dot Galo to work into the curricula.

- Touch base with Liaisons regarding individual school participation
- Include on workplan document

#### SNAP

Kerry Ni - Winter programs are now open for registration

#### UPCOMING SPEAKERS

1. Larry Epstein, (and Wife Jennifer) parents of children at Foster, have offered for no fee to do the following presentation:
  - a. "Parenting with Compassion - How to keep your cool, when your child is losing theirs".
    - i. Presentation would cover the following:
      1. Why your children display problematic behavior
      2. How to prevent the behavior from occurring
      3. How to address problem behavior when it occurs
      4. How to strengthen emotional skills to prevent the behaviors from reoccurring
  - b. Background on Larry Epstein:
    - i. Past South Shore Psychological Services Director
    - ii. Ran center at Mass Gen, for children with extreme behaviors
    - iii. Private practice in Hingham. Also does intervention for children with Autism and anxiety
  - c. Town Wide
  - d. Karen Uretzky has offered to be the point person - Liaison from Foster
  - e. HCAM?
  - f. Date - TBD (possible March/April date)

2. College Consulting:
  - a. Contact - Liza O' Reilly/ Kathleen Savory
  - b. Possible Spring Date - can Skype if necessary (February or March date)
  - c. Michelle Ayers - HS does a college planning session in the fall and would like to see this updated to include kids with IEPs. For all students and all parents.
  - d. Rights and Responsibilities discussion on transition to college - Katherine Gaughen will request for Janice Sullivan (HS Liaison) to talk with HS Consulting department and point them to that section of Rights and Responsibilities - how to take your 504 to college and include this in next fall material.
  - e. Colleges with programs for students with special needs - can we include in the next college fair
  
3. Special Education Budget Presentation at January 10<sup>th</sup> SEPAC Business Meeting
  - a. Dot Galo to do presentation
  - b. Liza O' Reilly to confirm with Dr. Galo the format
  - c. Katherine Gaughen will request the following material via email to Dr. Galo for the following information to be discussed during the presentation:
    - i. What was in the principles original requests - to provide input
    - ii. Reviewing IEPs: to calculate the real budget vs. the level services budget
    - iii. Actual Budget (real cost)
    - iv. SEPAC to advocate for the services
    - v. What is Liz Kurlan requesting?

#### COLLABORATIVE WORKPLAN

- See workplan document attached for updates
- On-going review and update meeting will be scheduled for January with working group

#### Manual Documents

Katherine Gaughen will contact Liz Kurlan regarding 1 page documents provided for distribution to parents:

- To be distributed in January to parents and staff will be held to timelines
- Verbiage and timelines need to be confirmed
- Format/layouts adjusted to be more reader friendly and comprehensive
- Updates need to be finalized and soft copies obtained from Liz Kurlan
- Need table of contents
- Website addresses and Hyperlinks should be included
- ESY Documents need clarification

#### NEXT STEPS

- Carroll School discussion update from Dr. Galo
- SEPAC will request settlement agreements for 2017 in January
- Working group meeting - workplan document to be scheduled for beginning of January
- Monthly Parent breakfast - discuss need to continue or try other avenues to meet with parents - Potential dates at individual schools
- Potentially using lawn signs for meeting and presentation dates
- Operations review - request for file review on cases and decisions

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm