

HINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL [SEPAC]

BOARD MEETING MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 16, 2019

7 P.M. TO 8 P.M.

MEETING HELD AT HINGHAM LIBRARY – FEARING ROOM

SEE MEETING AGENDA & ATTENDEE SHEET [BOTH ATTACHED]

Welcome & Introductions

Introduce New Board Members

Levelling Update – provided by Jen Gallagher

No central policy as to what to do about SPEC Ed for getting into advanced classes. Right now, case by case basis. Parallel plan on unifying course of study.

Suzanne Vinnes looking into ESY & Strategy Class [study hall for Spec Ed kids] – request update on this. Looking for feedback and task force on this. Suzanne to issue a Dear Community Letter in this regard.

A Dear community Letter coming out as written by Jamie LaBillois to be issued.

Better options to elections that interest them. Advocate for that.

Review of equity – what does it mean??? Relevancy to leveling – Jamie LaBillois looking into this. There will be an Equity Board Task Force – looking for SEPAC representation on this Task Force/Board. SEPAC staying on top of this – organizational skills – looking at this as a whole, but nothing to change THIS school year 2019/20.

HOW DOES SEPAC stay on top of School Committee to make sure this doesn't slide? Keep it on radar scope & keep it relevant.

- Over ½ of METCO kids in Hingham are Spec Ed.
- There is no additional math support UNLESS you are on an IEP/504. There is for reading – not for math.
- Have inclusion person in the Advanced Classes at High School level.
- January & June School Committee Meetings will be especially important to attend for Levelling.
- Goal: sit with Suzanne Vinnes monthly & Jamie as-needed.

Educational & Future Plans

- Met as a Board in August.
- In process of planning an October an Adaptive Technologies Program in November. Rights & Responsibilities & what people are interested into for the year.
- New superintendent Paul Austin couldn't make meeting tonight because of short notice
- Anxiety Seminar – interest in this. Katie McBrine, MD can spearhead getting speakers.

- Hearing loss – what to ask for as a parent.
- ADHD – Rights & Responsibilities
- We have approx. \$7K in our budget. Try to get some sponsors for events?
- Katy Shamitz? Larry Epstein? As potential speakers?
- Transition Planning for Kids nearing the end of high school – talking with Michelle [? Last name?] as to Vo-Tech and what numbers look like.

Meeting Schedule

- TBD.
- Next meeting Oct. 16 at 7 p.m.

School Committee Report

- Tentative launch date for new Hingham Schools website is January 2020.
- Shared the HPS Superintendent's Goals 2019-20
- SNAP just started – Fall Family Fun Day – collaborate with SEPAC? Date TBD.
- Unity Council – issues of identity. Sci-Co already has this. Planning meeting on Sept. 22nd.
Topics: books/movies the people are interested in. Trying to be non-partisan.

Other Business Not Reasonably Known Within 24 hours

- Goals – Resources for Parents – A Resource Guide
- What else is available? Options of other programs/schools.
- Start a Google Doc to start adding info as you find it out. Good start.
- Strength Based IEP – they are rolling these in. Should've taken place at the end of last year.
Goal is to provide a more positive and streamlined meeting. Parents will complete a form regarding child's strengths & weaknesses. Talk about areas for growth – collaborative approach.

- End of notes – meeting adjourned 8:00 p.m. –

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Russo, SEPAC Secretary 10/16/19, nunc pro tunc 9/16/19:


_____ 9/16/19








**Hingham Public Schools Special Education Parent Advisory Council
(SEPAC)**

Monday September 16, 2019
Hingham Public Library, Fearing Room
7:00 PM

Meeting Agenda

- 7:00 PM Welcome and Introductions
- 7:05 PM Approval of Minutes and Review Financials
- 7:10 PM Introduce New Board Members
- 7:20 PM Levelling Update
- 7:35 PM Educational Events & Future Plans
- 7:50 PM 2019-2020 Meeting Schedule
- 8:00 PM Updates
- School Committee
 - Special Education Subcommittee
 - Special Education Task Force
 - SNAP
- 8:15 PM Other Business Not Reasonably Known Within 24 Hours
- 8:20 PM Next Steps and Adjournment

SEPAC 9/16/19

Name	Sign-in
Kerry Ni	
Katie McBrine	
Jen Van Gelder Gallagher	
Tim Dempsey	
JULIA O'GRADY	
Diane De Napoli	
Holly Pilotte	

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