

SEPAC Meeting Minutes

11/18/2021

18 November 2021 /9:00AM / Zoom

ATTENDEES

Angela Richardson, Meredith Bielecki, Atara Korik, Melissa Suderman, Lori Bruce, Sessa Gadey, Kate Mazzola, Tracey Perkins, Lynette Kelleher, Matthew and Dawn Castro.

AGENDA

Last Meeting Follow-up

1. Call to order 9:07 am
2. Introductions
3. Approve minutes from the October meeting, 1st Meredith B and 2nd Sessa Gadey.
4. Lori's update
5. FCSN Membership/Advertising.
6. Coffee Chat
7. Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://carlisle-k12-ma-us.zoom.us/j/84815129405?pwd=c1FYd1dDSG92Z0lzUWgyV1N KcmQxZz09>
8. Parent questions/comments
9. Adjourn

10. Minutes approved.

SEPAC Information/Discussion Items

1. Lori's update.
 - a. 22 IEP meetings in September and October
 - b. 8 responses to IEP follow up.
 - i. Were very positive.

- c. Piloting new math program in grade 1.
 - i. Would be across Elementary and possibly 5th grade too.
 - ii. General program
 - 1. School is looking at math programs across the whole school.
- d. Working with Kathy Macklis and Dennett Sidell to put in place an additional early dyslexia screener, Early Bird. It's an ipad based screener.
 - i. Meeting with people in Acton/Boxborough who have utilized the program to see where they have had any issues/difficulties.
 - ii. Will be piloted in Kindergarten this year and next Pre-K, K and Grade 1.
- e. Training
 - i. All SPED and Gen Ed on assisted technology.
 - ii. Read and Write premier (Speech to Text and Text to Speech)and other assisted technology programs.
 - iii. Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
- f. Questions:
 - i. Whether or not officers need to be sworn in at town hall?
 - 1. No
 - 2. Do we have to follow local meeting law? We are school based.
 - a. Unknown, there are a lot of questions being asked about this right now.
 - b. As of right now we are following open meeting law. Town would like an agenda posted two days before the meeting.
 - c. Russell Johnson will hopefully be able to answer some of these questions.
 - 3. Do all of the officers need to partake in open meeting law training?
 - ii. Could you weigh in on the reading curriculum from the West Ed Report?
 - 1. Unclear about what data they used to support which program is the best program to use.
 - a. When looking at a program we look for:
 - i. Whether science and data based

- ii. Are there bias?
 - iii. What are you using for Tier 1, Tier II and Tier III. Can there be a connection between them?
 - b. Need to do something about writing.
- 2. Where are the school committee getting the Pre-K tuition?
 - a. Not 100% sure. However Lori doesn't believe the tuition numbers need to go up.
- 3. Is there a plan for a co-taught classroom?
 - a. No, there are no plans in the future for a co-taught model. We have too many children on IEPs' to make them effective. It doesn't meet the needs of every child.
- 4. Follow up to the co-taught classroom question. You say we have too many children on IEPs, to make the model effective. Does that apply to all grade levels in which it could be used? Do you mean just the one or two grades that have the bubble? Even in those grades, could the classes be arranged slightly differently so they can benefit from the co-taught model? Maybe not in such a condensed way that you're referring to.
 - a. They got rid of grade level teaching. They have Jan and Maddie for the kids who have the most significant reading disabilities, across grade levels.
 - i. The 5th grade has 4 special educators.
 - b. Not too many children are on IEPs in kindergarten. Even the numbers being lighter, is based on level of need not number of students.
- 5. What is your optimal ratio of Sped to Gen Ed, to make this model work? Would you consider it again for another grade in the future?
 - a. Based on level of need, not numbers of need.
 - b. Co-taught classes were struggling with the needs of the kids (ie if pullouts needed).
- 6. Do we need more Special educators per grade to make this model effective?

- a. We have one of the highest ratios of special educators to kids in the state.
 - b. SPED is 30% of the budget.
- 7. If The West Ed report is recommending this then what would it take in numbers of personnel to make this happen?
 - a. The West ED was not recommending we have co-taught classrooms. They saw that we were doing co-taught classrooms and suggested how we could do it better.
- 8. Parent commented that they believe to have an inclusive teaching environment you would need a co-teaching classroom.
- 9. Could parents who are interested in co-teaching reach out to some of the SPED educators who were involved in co-teaching to get an understanding of some of the experiences of co-teaching.
 - a. Lori suggested reaching out to Jan.
- 10. Lori is very supportive of the newsletter. Very excited about the ability to help and pass on information that parents may have.
 - a. The newsletter has reached out to the psych department for the first month of featured service providers.
 - i. Will you be interviewing all three of them?
 - 1. We ask the same three questions to all of them.
 - 2. They can answer collectively or individually.

2. Co-Chair Update

- a. Bylaws
 - i. If you attend at least one meeting of the SEPAC you become a voting member.
 - ii. Co-Chairs will go through the bylaws and propose some update and then share them at our next meeting.
 - iii. Vote on adopting the updates.
 - 1. Job descriptions

2. Chair and Vice Chair vs Co-chairs. Exploring roles of jobs/job descriptions.
 3. Taking on more roles
- b. School Committee
- i. Present to the school committee about SPED?
 - ii. Get more involved in DEI work.
 1. Giving parents tools on how to start conversations with parents about children with disabilities.
 - a. Reach out to Leslie Leslie about possible presentations.
 2. How to normalize conversations about having a neurodiverse child with parents and kids.
 3. How to navigate and normalize talking about academic disabilities and social/emotional disabilities.
 - a. Giving language to use.
 - b. Look into PAC to PAC
 4. Help mainstream neurodiversity.
3. Newsletter
- a. Questions sent to Psychology department
 - i. Waiting on response
 - b. Lori gave answers to the FAQ section.
 - i. Keep questions coming to Lori, Jim or Dennett coming. We need questions.
 - c. Partnering with PTO and DEI
 - i. Also talk with parents too
 - ii. Speaker or Training look into finding someone.
4. Coffee Chat
- a. Invite a friend
 - b. Idea of maybe a call in option/zoom.
 - c. December Coffee Meeting
 - i. Mornings seem to be the most popular vote
 - ii. December 9th 11:00am Ferns
 - d. Website
 - i. Added all the SC meeting dates and SEPAC dates
 - ii. Will highlight SC Members
 - iii. December 6th is SC check in on SPED
 - iv. Melissa will check in with Eva and Amanda if we need to supply any information for SC.

v. At least let them know that we will be present at the meeting.

e. Instagram as a promotion/flyers for coffee chats without pictures of members.

5. Adjourn Meeting at 10:50 am Motioned by Meredith