

SEPAC Meeting Minutes 09/22/20

22 SEPTEMBER 2020 / 7:30 PM / Zoom

ATTENDEES

Angela Richardson, Atara Korik, Meredith Bielecki, Kate Mazzola, Melissa Suderman, Lori Bruce, Mark C., Ostrous, Gwen Braygeen, Amy Connell, Marissa, Amanda Comperchio, Diane, Kate Rotman, Lerin Barnard, James Hinchiffe, Itamar, Ben Perry, Parul, SPG, Joanne Grynowicz, Kristyn Babcock, Diane, Amanda Kern.

AGENDA

Last Meeting Follow-up

1. Call to order
2. Introductions
3. First meeting of the year.
4. Update from administration about Covid and Special Education.
5. Federation of Special Needs Membership
6. Time for future SEPAC meetings.

New Business

- Call to order
- Introductions
- Approve minutes from the September meeting.
- Update from administration
- Status of FCSN Membership
- School Committee Sub-Committee on Special Ed update.
- Special accommodations for remote learning
- Parent questions/comments
- Adjourn

NOTES

- Lori Bruce spoke about how each student needs to be evaluated as an individual.
- She is proud of the work and effort the faculty has put in.
- Working on getting everyone up to speed on certifications needed.
- The District brought high needs kids as in person. State said higher needs children are kids who have more than 25% pullout time.
- CPS felt that wasn't effective for our population. The solution CPS came up with was any child that qualified for summer school qualified as high needs.
- Amanda Comperchio introduced herself.
- **Parents Questions:**
 - A parent ask the question of how does a parent go about getting feedback on their child?
 - Lori B. responded that each child has a learning plan and a case manager. They would be the person to get in touch with for any questions or necessary changes to the plan.
 - Another parent asked are case managers new?
 - No, there have always been case managers. However since Covid they have been trying to increase collaboration with families.
 - Parent asks is it hard to find enough time for scheduling teachers and services?
 - Lori B said yes its been challenging but services have to be delivered. It has been a bit tough for Family Remote cases if a child needs to with other children.
 - How is that being managed?
 - We are trying to work around everyone's schedules to make it happen. Each plan is very individualized in its delivery. It definitely is not the same. Lori B. is open to ideas. Some FR are coming in for services.

- Another family asked What are the SPED services for preschool?
 - Kids are getting SPED services in preschool they have a slp and special educator. There was also another Para hired for preschool.
- The question was asked What are the current SPED teacher vacancies?
 - We have been filling in the gaps where necessary however the need is for a part-time Para and Special Educator. However, we will be short if enough people get sick.
- A parent commented that they had a great experience with summer school. Providers helped out with what they were having a problem with. Now being back in school we want to make sure the kids stay involved.
 - Lori B. responded thank you. We are still working out all of the kinks but are getting there.
- Any thoughts on new kids connecting with other kids in town?
 - There have been weekly meetings about concerns for new students connecting with current students, not necessarily just kids on IEPs.
- What is the etiquette about who to ask questions too concerning your child and their progress?
 - You can email the Special Educator team, classroom teacher and/or your case manager. Your case manager can help you set up a communication log if you would like to utilize one.
- What is the information for the CCHS SEPAC?
 - Carol Yelle is the contact person. If you email the SEPAC we Kate can set you up with her information.
- A parent was interested in knowing how testing is going?
 - Elementary general ed is starting next week, then middle school. We are current not far behind. The 3yr testing should be on time for IEPs.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Federation of Special Needs.** Requesting for the school to cover the cost of membership.
 - a. Membership is \$450 for the year.
 - b. Lori B. will ask Jim O.
 - c. Should be vetted in the budget, will reach out to the School Committee.
2. **Time for upcoming SEPAC meetings.**
 - a. Have dates all set just need times that work for everyone.
 - b. The October 27th meeting will likely be at night.
 - c. Meredith will send out dates tomorrow.
 - i. Someone asked about an email list and how do they find it? The answer is due to privacy issues we do not have a shared email list.
3. **Question for Amanda.**
 - a. Can Amanda come to the next meeting and give an update about the sub committee? Amanda said, They have not met yet.
4. **West Ed Report.**
 - a. Would like to get back to collaborating on West Ed Report.

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Federation of Special Needs.**
 - a. Reach to School Committee.
 - b. Lori B. will talk to Jim.
2. **Time for upcoming SEPAC meetings.**
 - a. Meredith will send out dates and will reconvene on times.
3. **West Ed Report.**
 - a. Will discuss in upper coming meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

Motioned by Kate Mazzola Seconded by Atara Korik

