

SEPAC Meeting

19 November 2019 /9:30AM-11:23AM / SPALDING CONFERENCE ROOM

Attendees

KATE MAZZOLA, CO-CHAIR SEPAC

ATARA KORIK, SECRETARY

MEREDITH BIELECKI, PUBLICITY

MELISSA SUDERMAN, TREASURER

LORI BRUCE, DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES, M.ED

CARRIE PATEL, PARENT

EVA MOSTOUFI, PARENT

SESHA GADEY, PARENT

NIRESSA MARTIN, PARENT

MELISSA BILOTTA, PARENT

AMANDA COMPERCHIO, PARENT

ANGIE VERLENDEN, PARENT

Agenda

New Business

1. Meeting Minutes of October,17 2019 were reviewed and approved at 9:36 am. Kate Mazzola made a motion to approve, Atara Korik 2nd the motion.
2. Introductions
3. West Ed Report
4. IEPs
5. Goals for IEPs Moving Forward
6. Parent Questions
7. Math
8. Introduced School Committee Regional School Representative Eva Mostoufi

MEETING MINUTES

1. West Ed Report

- Lori B. presented a powerpoint on the West Ed Report.
- Lori B. explained the history of the West Ed Report.
- There were recommendations that came back and a lot of positive feedback too.
- Lori B. mainly focused on 3 big issues. They were:
 - changes to SPED's current model
 - co-taught classes, and

- IEP clustered into grade levels.
- Dr. Sidell is currently reviewing and assessing different Math Programs.
- Lots of good work is being done in the school but there is also room for growth.. Lori B. believes this is a really good program and a lot of good work is being done. She is proud to work in Carlisle and with all the staff.

2. IEP

- Lori B. has been working on IEPs since summer, 2019.
- Staff participated an IEP training in early September.
- Staff has been receiving trainings on legal/regulatory issues around IEPs and what an IEP should look like.
- IEPs should not change drastically from year to year.
- IEPs need to be streamlined across the board.
- Staff has been very open and grateful for the training.
- Different issues for Elementary School than for Middle School.
- Different accommodations for Elementary to Middle school.
- Middle school students with IEPs work on study skills instead of taking a foreign language.
- Idea to have smaller groups putting kids together based on need, not schedule.

3. Goals for IEPs Moving Forward

- Lori B. stated we need literacy specialists across different grades.
- Lori B. met with General Ed and SPED teachers for middle school and is scheduled to meet with elementary in early December.
- All IEPs are well written, but not all data driven, need to change benchmarks to make more measurable.
- It will take a year to hash out all the IEPs.
- The focus is reviewing Elementary School one IEP at a time.
- There will be a January training on Dyslexia. The bar needs to be set high, and there needs to be a balance between challenging the students but not causing anxiety.
- Focus on Literacy. Bring students up to reading level. Design graphic organizers.
- Strengthen data piece. Data teams are powerful for schools.
- Paras to collect more data.
- Will focus on the bigger Para picture. What teachers need Paras and what the Paras should focus on
- Need to work on anxiety in middle school.

4. Parent Questions and Answers

- Question from a parent, *What progress monitoring is there during the year?* Lori B. answered There will be 3 progress notes throughout the year which have to be data based. If there is not enough data it must be explained why.
- A parent asked *what is SLP testing?* SLP testing is language testing. The testing shows where deficits are coming from in terms of articulation, word retrieval and social language.
- A parent asked a question about streamlining ELA curriculum. The Star 3000 Renaissance Program, is used Middle school, Foundations in Elementary and Just Words is also used in 4th grade.
- Para's had a training on supporting higher order of thinking, Lori B. did the training.

- Question from parent about adding other techniques to the teachers tool box such as Orton-Gillingham. The school is using Wilson, Heggerty Phonemic Awareness program for little kids, everyone will be trained in it. Staff develop programs that are individualized for each student.
- A parent asked if there will be training for Wilson and how they will be trained. There is a three day training with didactic and clinical blocks.
- A parent asked a question pertaining to a search for a new math teacher. Leslie Yanka will be returning to her position as Math Supporter.
- A Parent made note that there needs to be a continuum across the grades. Classrooms should be built based on data. There should be more reading specialists. Also asked if Dr. Mackalis works w/ other specialists. Lori B. says she does.
- Another parent made a statement that we should know what our goals are. At the end of the year we should know where our kids are.
- Another parent suggested we need error analysis.
- Parent said the school needs to move forward. Lori B. said the teachers are very open and willing. Teachers are very appreciative and learning.
- Another parent commented that teachers are aware of children's needs.
- Parent asked if we have all the resources and teachers that we need. Is everyone getting covered?
- Parent concerned with dyslexia. Parent reads a quote from West Ed Report. Parent is concerned with the level of training of teachers, specifically regarding dyslexia and dysgraphia. Lori B. answers that teachers are mostly experienced with training. She would not allow anyone to teach a child if they didn't have experience with their disability. Parent asked Lori if she feels that every student is matched with a special educator that is qualified to help them. Lori B. said last year no, this year yes.
- Another parent mentioned that there needs to be support for self-esteem issues.
- The parents asked Lori B. how she felt about the article that the Mosquito wrote. Lori B. felt that they did a good job and that it would have been a difficult article to write if you weren't an educator.
- A Parent asked Lori B. if she thinks we should be testing kids earlier, she answered yes.
- A parent asked about the suggestion by the school committee that the administration is not taking the West Ed Report seriously. Lori B. assured everyone that they are. Also Eva M. answered that the School Committee is here to make sure it will be taken seriously and that it will all be accounted for.

5. Math

- A parent asked a question pertaining to a search for a new math teacher. Leslie Yanka will be returning to her position as Math Supporter.
- Dr. Sidell looking into a less language based math program.
- Currently using Everyday Math.
- Reliance on box program has failed. Not every child is on an IEP that struggles with math or language.

6. School Committee Regional School Representative Eva Mostoufi

- The School Committee is a public forum. Meetings are on Wednesday at 7pm. They are usually every 2nd or 3rd Wednesday. Please check calendar to confirm.
- Eva invited everyone to come to the School Committee meetings.

- Eva has had a great experience at the school. It's a great place to grow up.
- The biggest focus is on child achievement. We have a weakness in the program and Lori B. is addressing it.
- The SC wants to look at the literary piece, teacher education and that children have access to more teaching modalities.
- The SC believes we need more information and this is not enough, so the SC is forming a sub-committee to monitor the progress of the school as it implements changes related to the recommendations of the West Ed report.
- The sub-committee would meet with Jim O'Shea once a month.
- The sub-committee will forward information to the SEPAC.

7. Summer School

- There were 32 responses from the survey we sent out.
- It went out in the Principal's weekly reports, and Lori A. sent out to parents.
- Meredith put x2 postings on the Carlisle parents Facebook page.
- There are 115 kids currently on IEPs.
- Written comments in the survey were mostly vague.
- Some people mentioned enrollment.
- Smaller tutoring 1:1 was mentioned.
- Some parents wanted specific instruction. More focused on issues, flexible. Maybe just a literary week. Does it have to be 3hrs can it be flexible?
- Summer school starts after the 4th of July- 1st week of August.
- 3 days a week for 5 weeks.
- Originally it was only 3 weeks.
- Not an all or nothing approach. Can go one day if that is all you can do, etc.
- Summer school is to prevent regression and maintain skills.
- Summer school has historically been small.
- Discussed ideas to market to parents.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:23 am

Action Items

Follow up with Eva regarding SC sub-committee.

Next Meeting Agenda

- Discuss any further parent concerns about the West Ed Report.
- Talk about dates for the Parent's Rights Workshop.