SEPAC

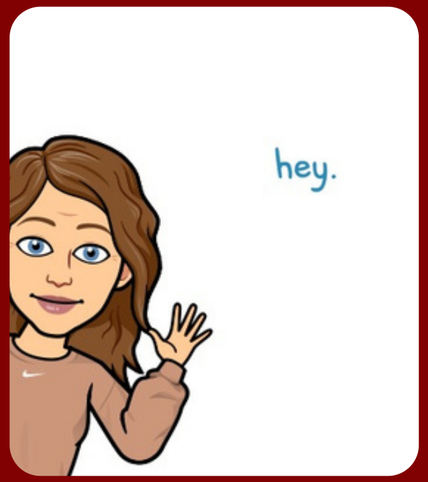
SY 24/25

YEAR IN REVIEW

MEET OUR BOARD



Christine O'Hara



Kim Ferreira



Melinda Caldwell



Cynthia Lang



Danielle Graziano-
SC Liason

WHAT IS SEPAC?

A SEPAC is a Special Education Parent Advisory Council. Every public school district in Massachusetts is **required** to establish a SEPAC. Massachusetts state law assigns both an advisory and participatory function to SEPACs. Membership is open to all district parents of children with disabilities (IEPs and 504 plans) and other interested parties.

Duties shall include, but not be limited to:

- advising the School Committee on matters that pertain to the education and safety of students with disabilities;
- meeting regularly with school officials to participate in the planning, development and evaluation of the district's special education programs; and
- cooperating with the District on their annual workshop on the rights of students, parents and guardians under state and federal law.

The SEPAC is a self-governing public body which creates its own by-laws and operational procedures. A SEPAC is different from other parent groups in a school district such as a PTA, PTO or School Council – a SEPAC does not represent families from one school, but represents all families of children with disabilities from the entire school district.



CONNECT

SEPAC has participated in and organized various events within the community to connect with families and foster understanding, ensuring that education remains accessible to all.

Every school year begins with 11 Open Houses















CAREGIVER COFEE HOURS

Hosted at Wildcat Cafe





Thank You, Karen and Kelly



TA FITNESS MEET UPS









COLLOBORATION



The collaborations we cultivate at WPS and within our community are a really vital part of our mission.

We believe that by working together, we can achieve so much more than we ever could on our own. These partnerships help us to support each other, share resources, and come up with innovative solutions to the challenges we face. It's all about building strong, lasting relationships that make a real difference in our community.



UNIFIED ARTS AT SEACH















PRESENTATIONS

Basic Rights

FEDERATION FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Basic Rights:
Transition Planning
A Free Virtual Workshop
for Parents and Professionals

Navigating the New IEP

MASSACHUSETTS ADVOCATES *for* CHILDREN

South Shore Special Education Services

SPECIAL OLYMPICS COMMITTEE



New initiatives for 2025

- Increased communication for families regarding events- including visual aids and emails regarding event schedule and location
- Our Own Co Chair “WILD-ly” congratulated Grand Marshall, Junior Grand Marshall and Miss Loud

Anticpated initiatives for 2026

- Student representative on Committee, to insure an inclusive meaningful experience for all athletes
- Increase Out of District participation- collaborate with OOD placement to give all student opportunity to compete on their “home field”


The right to play on any playing field?
You have earned it.
The right to study in any school?
You have earned it.
The right to hold a job?
You have earned it.
The right to be anyone's neighbor?
You have earned it.
The days of segregation and separation are over!"
- EUNICE KENNEDY SHRIVER
SPECIAL OLYMPICS
50
1968 - 2018

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

















MONTHLY MEETING WITH STUDENT SERVICE ADMINS

The board convened monthly with Meg and Kristie to address changes, policies, and concerns affecting the district. We deeply appreciate these meetings as they are crucial for ensuring that up-to-date information is shared with families. They also foster important discussions that enhance special education and inclusion throughout the district.

PTO PRESENTATIONS

Seach Elementary

Wessagusset Elementary

COMMUNITY

Our sensory cart remains an invaluable resource for enhancing accessibility at school events for all students. This year, the cart has made appearances at Open Houses, Pingree's Glow Party, and Wessagusset's Silent Disco, with its next destination being Chapman's 8th-grade dance.

RESOURCE FAIR

Our 3rd Annual Resource Fair was the best yet.
We had 25 organizations representing a myriad of services from Speech Therapy to Hockey Teams



The Arc South Shore
AUTISM RESOURCE CENTER

MERGE
DIVERSE ABILITIES INCLUSION CONSULTING

MY OMBUDSMAN
MASSHEALTH HEALTH PLANS



Community Autism Resources
A PRESENCE ALONG YOUR JOURNEY

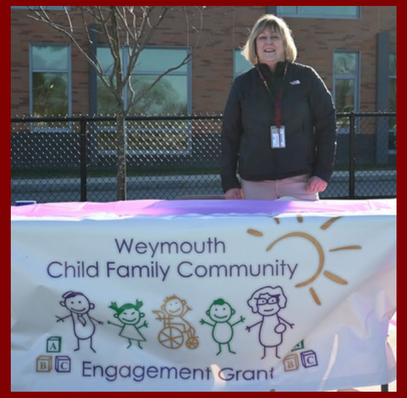
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SARGENT
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

Puzzle Pieces
THERAPY FOR KIDS. SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES



RESOURCE FAIR









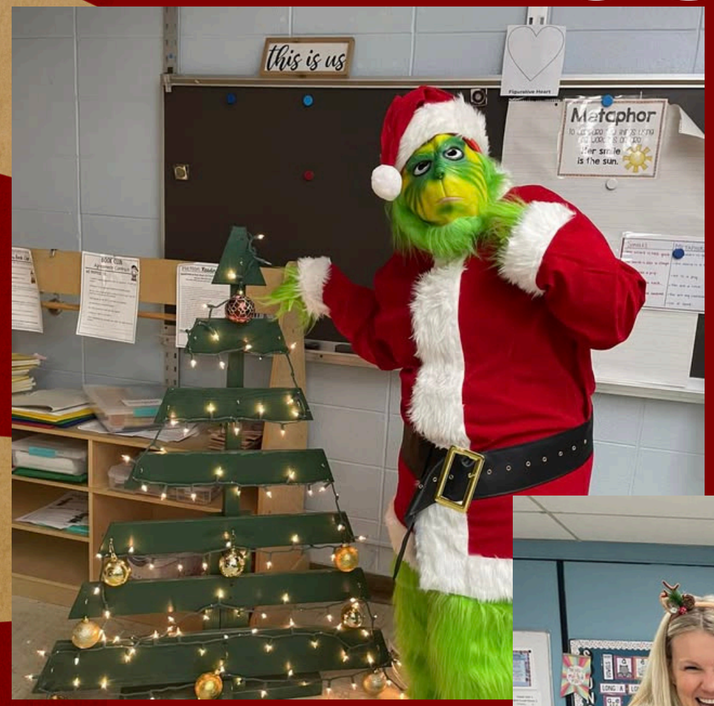








YOU'RE A MEAN ONE, MR. GRINCH





"No matter how different
a Who may appear,
he will always be welcomed
with holiday cheer."

—CINDY LOU WHO



TRUNK OR TREAT













PUMPKIN GIVE-A-WEY









Weymouth SEPAC was recognized by Senator Patrick O'Connor for our contributions to the community and support for families. Thank you to Senator O’Connor and his team for engaging in meaningful conversations about supporting our loved ones with disabilities throughout their lives.

These are some of the advocacy initiatives at state federal and local we supported this year, with written or spoken testimony at hearings



Legislation on improving access to AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication, also enhancing education to those working with students that use this form of communication

Testimony for Budget Ammendments to fully fund the DESE/DDS Risk of Residential Placement Program

We attended the Legislative reception held by the MDDC (Mass Developmental Disabilities Council at the State House and for the AFAM Advocates for Autism Advocacy Day.

Consistent presence at our local level meetings such as Budget and Town meetings

SY 25/26 GOALS

- Have a representative designated for each school:
  - Working on making school events more inclusive
  - Create opportunities for families from substantially separate programs to connect
  - Present on SEPAC and inclusion at PTO meeting
- Collaborate with Best Buddies and Special Olympics to bring resources and opportunities to MWC and WHS Clubs, as well as explore elementry level programming.
- Expand our Caregiver Coffee Hour concept with a Bi Monthly schedule with a different administration representative at each

THANK YOU