ACK-SEPAC

Special Education Parent Advisory Council

Nantucket, Massachusetts

Laura Steele, Suzanne Fronzuto – Co-Chairs

Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2024

(The meeting was held in-person in the NHS conference room and via Google video conferencing)

ACK-SEPAC Co-chair Laura Steele called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 PM. Greetings and introductions followed. The minutes from the May 15th meeting were accepted.

New Business:

- Election of Officers – Officers for the coming year were re-elected as voted: Co-Chairs: Laura Steele and Suzanne Fronzuto; Recording Secretary: Lora Kebbati. The FaceBook portion of the social media liaison role will be assumed by Kristen, with Laura occasionally posting items as an administrator. The district recently purchased for ACK-SEPAC a membership to MassPAC, and Deb suggested the many resources available there could be of help with ACK-SEPAC's social media efforts.

- NPS Open House Week - The dates were confirmed as: NES 10/07/24, NHS 10/08/24, CPS 10/09/24 and NIS 10/10/24. Coverage for the SEPAC table was assigned for each night.

- New at SEPAC starting in October – Suzanne talked about 'SEPAC Office Hours,' with designated phone times for parents to call in with questions, obtain information on resources, etc. 'Parent to Parent' is a group of parents who will partner with other parents who share similar experiences, children with a same diagnosis or other area that would benefit from someone who has been down a similar path. Suzanne is currently completing her training for this program at the FCSN.

Director Update:

Deb Gately, Director of Special Services – Deb reported on the family informational meeting on September 5th. There were approximately 50-60 families who participated, with many new faces in attendance. Deb's staff worked directly with Spanish speaking parents on family verification in ASPEN. The presentation on the new IEP and individual discussions with parents were overseen by Deb and Michele Cadavid respectively. Several additional school staff also assisted parents directly on the computers with updating their student and family information.

Included with the original invitation sent to parents for the family information meeting was notification of a new I.T. system for signing in for IEP meetings. This is to increase safety and security in the district. Deb, who travels between the various school buildings throughout the day, explained there is also a tracking system for staff who check in and out of buildings.

Continuing this year is the sharing of electronic documents in electronic IEP folders. The new EdPlan system will streamline the process of accessing, receiving and signing documents.

Deb announced the second annual Buddy Walk for Down's Syndrome on October 6th from 12:00 – 2:00 PM. Jenn Christiansen and Angela Knapp of MVCS are coordinating this event.

Deb provided a reminder about Basic Rights Workshop scheduling.

(The director's full report is attached to these minutes.)

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 PM.
Uncommon Parents did not take place due to unforeseen technology issues.

-** The next meeting of the ACK-SEPAC is October 16, 2024 **-

Respectfully submitted,

Lora Kebbati, Recording Secretary

ACK-SEPAC
Director's Report
September 18, 2024

We thank those families who attended our family informational meeting on September 5, 2024 on the new IEP form that we will be using for students this year.

A reminder for all families attending their student's IEP meeting in person this year. Each school has a new visitor sign in system called Raptor. When signing in you will need to provide a picture identification card, such as a Driver's License. If you are attending a special education meeting at NES, please sign in at the Special Services Office which can be found at Door 3 at the front entrance of NES.

This year we will continue to use an electronic shared file with all documents for your student's IEP meeting. This file will be shared via Google to your email on file and will have all documents for the meeting. Please call the Special Services Office at 508-228-7285 ext 1355.

A Buddy Walk is being planned for October 2024 in cooperation with Martha's Vineyard Regional Community Services. Anyone interested in participating or assisting can contact Angela Knapp at AKnapp@mvcommunityservices.org or Jennifer Christiansen at christiansenj@npsk.org.