ACK-SEPAC

Special Education Parent Advisory Council

Nantucket, Massachusetts

Laura Steele, Suzanne Fronzuto – Co-Chairs

Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2024

(**Note**: The meeting was held in-person in NHS conference room and via Zoom)

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:00 PM, facilitated by Co-chair Laura Steele, followed by greetings and introductions.

Director Update:

Deb Gately, Director of Special Services – Deb announced the availability of quarter 2 NHS IEP progress reports in Aspen or via direct email or printout by request. Reports for grades K-5 go home as hard copies with report cards as usual.

The district received a grant in the amount of $17,000.00 relating to the new IEP implementation. Family engagement is part of grant, and Deb shared plans for a family night for parents of special education students to review the new IEP form. Fund simple dinners w/childcare option after. Languages other than English will be accommodated. Prep work with families before dinner meeting so they have background info before presentation. Beginning September 2024 teacher will have professional development to implement.

Introduction of the new IEP form may take place as early April 2024.

Deb also provided a staffing update. The district website is advertising for five positions that include severe special needs teacher and an IDSC teacher. The OT position is a contract position and the individual who has been hired may work ESY. There Finally have PT in district starting in March. This person has agreed to do ESY.

BCBA (Lisa Ouimet) last day is Monday 2/27. She will be providing services on island privately.

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

Guest Presenter:

- **Kerry Ray – Director of Programming, Nantucket S.T.A.R.** (Sports & Therapeutic Accessible Recreation)

  Kerry shared the history of S.T.A.R. and its mission to offer inclusive recreational activities that support and celebrate diverse strengths and abilities through collaborations with families and community partnerships. She presented on S.T.A.R.'s various programs, events and activities that are offered. Their goal is to meet every child where they are. Parents in attendance shared the positive experiences of their children's participation in S.T.A.R. program, and there was a discussion of how new parents or other families unfamiliar with S.T.A.R. can be made aware of this valuable island resource. Ceci Gutierrez, Spanish Interpreter and Translator also continues to work in this effort.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 PM and was followed by Uncommon Parents.

-** The next meeting of the ACK-SEPAC is March 20, 2024 **-

Respectfully submitted,

Lora Kebbati, Recording Secretary

ACK-SEPAC
Director's Report
February 21, 2024

Submitted by: Deb Gately

NHS IEP Progress Reports for Quarter 2 (23-24)

Families of NHS special education students were informed today that IEP progress reports are available for review in Aspen. For any families who are unable to access the reports or who would like to receive a printed copy, they may contact the Special Services Office at 508-228-7285, ext. 2181 and Maria Chirinos, our ESP for IEP Compliance will be happy to assist them.

Plans for Family Engagement Night for Parents of Special Education Students to review the new IEP Form

The Office of Special Services will be seeking the assistance of both ACK-SEPAC and the Nantucket MLPAC to coordinate a family engagement night in April 2024 to review the new IEP form. As part of the grant awarded to the district in December 2023, the district has received funding to purchase food and refreshments for the evening. We will be working with NHS to identify students to provide child care for families (in exchange for community service hours).

Current Vacant Positions in Special Education which have been posted on School Spring

1. Severe Special Needs Teacher - NHS
2. BCBA (NES/NIS/Options)
3. School Psychologist (District)
4. Occupational Therapist (currently filled by a contracted provider - NES/CPS/NHS)
5. Physical Therapist (District) (contracted provider starting March 20, 2024)

Staff Leaving NPS This Week

1. Lisa Ouimet - BCBA (NES/NIS) - for the purpose of retirement
2. Rachel Meriwether - Clinician - Effective School Solutions - NHS