



Balanced
Empowered
Navigator of Change
Genuine
Accountable
Leader

Special Education Parent Advisory Committee Monthly Meeting (SEPAC)

October 28, 2025

6:00pm - 7:30pm

Attendees: Debbie Pacheco, Director of Special Education
 Jennifer Viana
 Wendy Rego
 Fatima Zohra

- Welcome (Debbie Pacheco)
 - W. Rego at last meeting
 - J. Viana not at last meeting
 - Ms. Pettey and Ms. Duarte were at last meeting and did not attend this meeting
 - Ms. Farinha initiated interest but did not attend
- SEPAC Officers
 - Resignations
 - Carline Monte - Secretary
 - No officers at this time
 - Elections
 - No interest
- Goal of the SEPAC (Mrs Pacheco inquired to parents attending)
 - SEPAC is a parent lead group
 - Last Tuesday of each month scheduled by previous SEPAC Secretary (no December meeting)
 - Would it be possible if our SEPAC can attend other SEPAC meetings from surrounding towns to see how the meetings are run and what is involved?
 - Mrs. Pacheco will reach out to surrounding towns
- Mrs. Pacheco in the past ran SEPAC meetings
 - Parent advisory membership still active

- monthly membership trainings sent to all parents of students with disabilities
 - Mrs. Pacheco will send out MASS PAC trainings, as they are received so parents can sign up
- September SEPAC meeting discussed Safety and transition after high school
 - Concern regarding "lock down" and how to prevent issues
 - Parent group interested in having Eric Silva address group regarding safety concerns along with Ms. Weckesser and Mr. Bentley
 - Mr. Bentley spoke with parent about detectors at entry doors
- Exploratory Program
 - Would like Ms. Gauthier to speak about vocational programs implementing accommodations for all students on IEPs
- Massachusetts Federation for Children
Leslie Leslie if she could speak to the group
 - No longer offering basic rights workshops
 - Doing more monthly calendar events with weekly sessions for all parents
- Parents would like to see workshops on how to empower your child and help them advocate for themselves and knowing their IEP
 - Mr. Paiva, student liaison, meets with all students and reviews their IEP, accommodations and prepares them for their upcoming IEP meetings
 - Workshops should cover transition after high school
 - MassAbility
 - Department of Development Services
 - Southeast Center for Independent Living
- November focus
 - Mr. Silva, Ms. Gauthier, Mr. Costa and if a Senior is able to speak about experiences
 - Exploratory program
 - Process of placement
 - IEP and teachers reading and following IEP accommodations

- session could be Eric Silva presentation on concerns with placement and accommodations in shops
- ways to prepare your child for transition every three days
 - what you are going to do in those three days in shops / sights / sounds / how many students / loud shops / quiet shops / standing / sitting / expectations (Rubric)
 - Create resource for students and parents to reduce anxiety
- Services available to freshman and their parents
 - Special Education Department directory with contact information and their role, who need to contact for each situation
 - Website is an excellent resource for vocational program (some shops show a video), have names of instructors, photos and expectations
- How to deal with disappointment if you do not receive your first, second or third choice of shops in January
- Push out to Freshmen ONLY parents (add Ms. Zohra, parent of upperclassman)
- Are there any social programs for students at Diman
 - No programs available directly through Diman
- November 25 meeting push up to November 18 6:00pm - 7:30pm
- PTO
 - Active
 - Lisa Desrosiers, President
 - March 11 was last posting on Diman website
 - Difficulty getting parents to participate
 - Meets 2nd Tuesday of each month
 - Postings are on the "Family" tab on Diman website
- NO December, meeting so next meeting to be held on January 27 6:00pm - 7:30pm
 - Focus on Juniors and Seniors
 - transition services
 - after high school with or without college
 - round table group DDS, MassAbility, SCIL speak about services

- Sarah Rodrigues (speaker) Balanced Learning Center (parent experience with organization)
 - Focused presentation on perspective for incoming freshmen
 - Comforting way she spoke about how everything lead up to this point and importance of the next four years
 - Offers social groups through Balanced Learning Center
 - Community based social groups: part of Diman transition group support services for all students, summer programs, The following Agencies : People Incorporated , outside services such as Positive Synergy, Balance Learning groups

- Did not review
 - ByLaws
 - Department Updates
 - Parents' Rights Workshop

- Next steps
 - Next meeting November 18 moved up from November 25

Closing notes:

Post minutes and send to three parents with email addresses share email addresses with each other.

table at PTO fair, vendor table?

Consider having a table at an open house November 23?

Kwarren@dimanregional.org for parent liaison