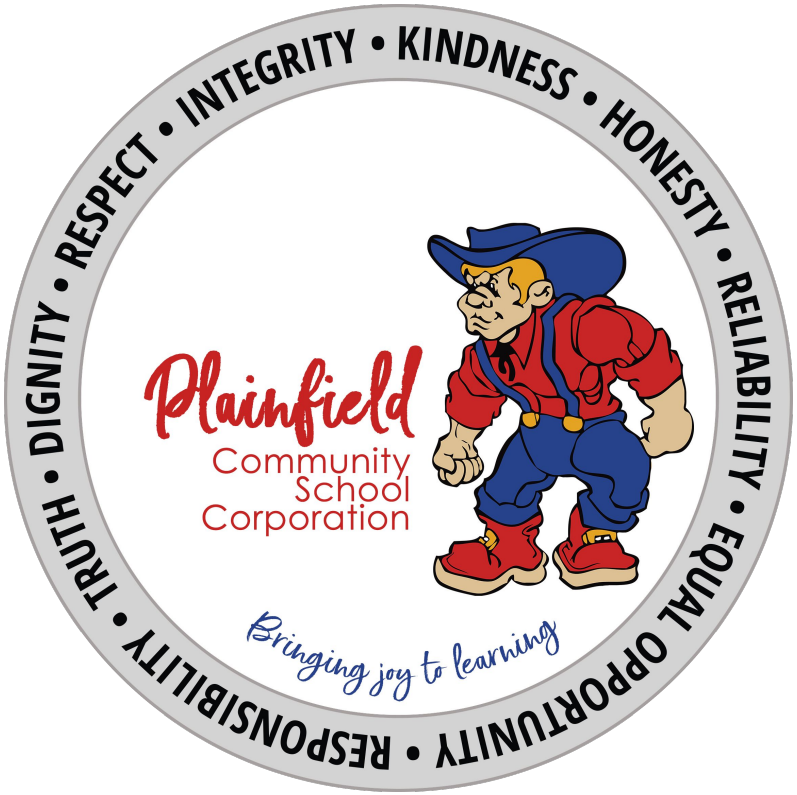
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# What is The Plainfield Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC)

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# What is a SEPAC?

"A local Special Education Parent Advisory Council, or SEPAC (sea-pack) is a district-level, parent-driven group that provides input to the local school district on system-level challenges in special education and related services."



"A local SEPAC provides direct input to school district leaders about policies, programs, practices, and services that have an impact on students with disabilities and their families. Its purpose is to advise, advocate, and offer guidance, not to decide policy. An effective SEPAC can increase the proactive, productive involvement of families by inviting their input in ways that can be used to shape local special education policy."

https://sepacguide.parentcenterhub.org/

# Article 7

**511 IAC 7-36-1 Parent and community participation**

Sec. 1. A public agency is encouraged to establish, or support the establishment of, a parent advisory council, committee, task force, or group. The public agency's goals for a parent group may include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) Supporting students and family membership in the school community.

(2) Inviting parents of students with disabilities to participate on school decision making committees.

(3) Fostering effective communication with families focused on student learning and development.





# How we began…..

- Group was proposed in early 2019
- Small group started
- Monthly, year-round meetings
- No clear guidelines for how to structure
- First focused on developing a mission statement



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# Who are we, and what is our mission?

The SEPAC provides input and makes recommendations on special education policy, programs, and practices to the district.

SEPAC members will act as liaisons to share comments and concerns with school leaders! Our common goal is to ensure each student and his/her family is provided an equitable opportunity to participate within the school environment.

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# What we have accomplished…

- Updated district website with more Special Education/Disability related resources

- Started Quarterly Townhall Meetings to help educate all parents



# ADVOCACY IN ACTION: A Guide to Local Special Education Parent Advisory Councils

https://sepacguide.parentcenterhub.org/




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# How we have grown…

- Actively pursuing representation from each school in our district
- Spreading the word about our SEPAC
    - Quaker Conversations
    - PTOs
    - Quarterly newsletters
- Formalizing the group structure
    - Deliniating responsibilities
    - Created By-laws and Code of Ethics



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# What are meetings like…

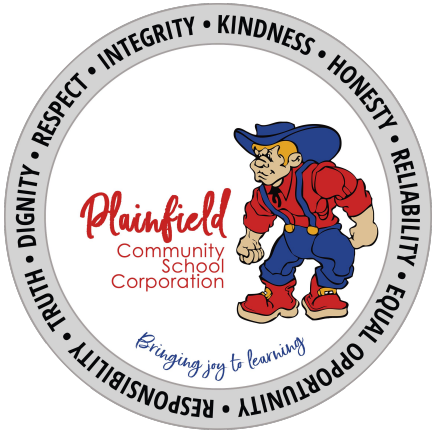
- Meetings are the 2nd Thursday of each month from 6 – 7 pm on Zoom
- Agenda and reminder sent out ~1 week prior
  - To add items to agenda, email Parent Lead
  - Director of Special Education approves agenda
- Parent Lead runs the meeting and Committee Members give reports as assigned



# Agenda items…

- Issues should be broad
- All discourse should be civil
  - Committee Members have a wide range of experiences, opinions, and beliefs
  - Disagreeing is ok!  Just be polite!




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