

Meeting Minutes March 9, 2023

People in attendance: Kaitlyn Smith, Dana Green, Pamela Duggan, Adelaide Reilly, Michelle Powell, Jenny Blouts, Kelsey Burpee

1) Welcome

2) Meeting Minutes Approved Meeting Minutes from February 16, 2023

3) Election of any Open Board Seats

Open Positions: Bolton Town Rep

Bolton PTO Liaison

Friends of SEPAC

Notes:

Minuteman Rep (Vote that into the bylaws)

Out of District Rep (Vote that into the bylaws)

At IEP meetings can we send out a SEPAC brochure?

Make an email introducing the SEPAC and target out of district families.

Some people were unable to attend due to the link. E.G. If you are part of another school you are unable to log in. Go through your personal email.

Spoke about the transfer of funds.

4) Presentation to the school committee will be on April 26th. Add to the presentation 49 people from Nashoba plan to attend the ADHD presentation. Add to the agenda that we are worried about the staffing shortage and minutes being lost. Are they being tracked? Who is overseeing the staff. The Team Chair and Special Ed. Teachers. Who consults them? Teacher understanding about teacher disabilities. Who is training the teachers? How do we retain good teachers? Make an organization chart of what teachers we have. Who's driving the budget or the grant writing? District Specialists?

Dr. Bochelli? If we have some great special ed. Teachers. How do we retain the teachers we have so they don't leave? There have been multiple teachers who have quit mid year.

5) Special Ed Staffing shortage - Which schools are being impacted. How are schools notified? How can we support parents? How do we reach out to them?

Sepac will draft a letter to Joan and Kirk Notes: Center School - Last year there was only one K-3rd grade special educator. They brought another part time employee to help this Special Education Teacher. Preschool teacher at Center is no longer there. The full time Special Education Teacher recently quit. The part time person is now going to take over the caseload.

This new teacher is taking on 1.5 caseload. Bolton - Early Rise a group of teachers (3 teachers) left. That program is not being serviced by assistants. Sawyer - Parent reports that 7 months since an evaluation a student is not receiving push in services. How do parents know that kids are getting their services? Parents can ask for daily logs.

6) Survey to parents. The Exit Survey is confusing. Last year we had 34 responses. What questions can be added and taken away to make it more useful to parents. School committee is asking for parent feedback in an annual needs survey.

7) Potential Guest speaker topics and Upcoming Events

a) Caregiver fatigue - Parents need Respite

b) How to get our kids moving? E.g. Yoga Boston University instructor

c) Autism - lived experiences

d) Executive function

e) Transition - Parents need information on DDS, SSI, SSDI, and Guardianship
Mary O'Brien from the Lurie Center was helpful.

f) Speech and Language Pathologists, OTs as speakers Marriane Walker and Anne Nye opened up a Speech and Language Practice and OT practice

g) Stow/Bolton Police Department Webinar

h) Invite Current High School Students to speak with parents

8) SEPAC manual and Special Education guide: qualifications, services, process

i) Basic Rights

j) Epstein

k) <https://jessicaminahan.com/>

Thank our Special Education Teachers to let them know how grateful we are. How can we show our appreciation?