



## **Minutes of the Weston Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)**

September 30, 2020

Virtual Meeting

**Attendees:** Maija Cirulis Gooch, Kathy Davidoff, Lisa Lappi, Rachel Stewart, Lisa Cukier, Todd Hadden, Susan, Lornece Tull, Jeanette Velasquez, Becky Cahill, ML Gaw, Jill Sieber, JaLisa Anderson

**Meeting was called to order** by Kathy Davidoff at 7:09pm and Kathy read the announcement regarding open meeting law on virtual meetings.

### **Introductions of Board Members**

- Kathy Davidoff (co-Chair, HS Liaison)
- Lisa Lappi (co-Chair, HS Liaison)
- Lornece Tull (MS Liaison, RLA)
- Jeanette Velasquez (Woodland Liaison)
- Maija Cirulis-Gooch (Field School Liaison, Secretary)

### **Kathy Davidoff & Lisa Lappi introduced the role of SEPAC and aims of the group**

- Parent Education Upcoming Event was highlighted (Wong & Boscarine Attorneys presentation on Special Education rights under Covid in conjunction with Wayland SEPAC) which will be held on October 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Davidoff discussed some of the things that have done
  - Survey from last year will likely be redone given Covid
  - Website enhancements & resource sharing
  - Connection & networking opportunities for parents
  - Parent Education
  - Meeting with Jen Truslow (Assistant Superintendent of Student Services) monthly
- Issues SEPAC works with school administration on
  - Child Find
  - School & district policies
  - ESY
- Rachel Stewart introduced as Liaison to School Committee

## Issues brought up from parents

- The quality of daily schedules for remote/hybrid with good Zoom links and ability to do by themselves. Felicia O'Brien (1<sup>st</sup> Woodland) does a really great format. Would be great to get other teachers. Best practices are out there and make such a difference. Lindsay Gibbons was mentioned as doing great ones for ESY. Rachel Stewart discussed the importance of standardization across the schools/district. Timing of schedule release is also an issue, as parents need to have schedules sent out ahead of work/other school obligations so they can support their students.

ACTION ITEM --- School SEPAC Liaisons will reach out to respective building Principals

- Concern over students brought in for 4 days are doing repeats, only getting half the curriculum (elementary level) or are remote days not learning anything? This was raised at School Committee yesterday and no satisfactory answer was given. Hopefully this would be resolved if elementary switches to all-in. Kathy Davidoff advised careful tracking of what services are being offered, what is working, what isn't working, and what is missing to have data for compensatory services.
- Service timeslots (eg. SLT) being cut short and shared between multiple students. Again recommended to document what is happening and conversations & communications with school team.
- Remote Learning Plans (in addition to IEP/504 plans) are supposed to be put together with parent input. All IEP services are still to be provided on the IEP per DESE guidance.
- Inquiry about how to get more involved & information on SEPAC. (Website, Facebook, any other SEPAC member)
- Discussion on Out of District Coordinator/new Team Chair and that is working.
- Question from member on how best to deal with mediation with District on more complicated cases, and the need for more integrative plans/support. Ms. Davidoff discussed past experiences and stressed that funding should not be preventing your child from getting FAPE and what is needed.
  - Important to document letters regarding student progress in current situation
  - Importance of developing life skills to survive post schooling & function in society, not just education discussed, which group homes may not provide.
  - ACTION ITEM --- Reach out to other parents that have gone through the process with the district
- Smaller virtual classes & 1:1 during remote learning are needed for students some times and concern that kids in lower elementary are just being told to "go read" during "live" learning time. Rachel Stewart discussed importance of making sure Senior administrators understands gaps/issues in remote learning.

ACTION ITEM --- Compile information/issues in a way that is useful and actionable. Jeannette & Kathy are going to work together to gather information from survey and collate it in a usable fashion.

## Survey: Send a survey out to parents asking for:

- Best Practices (eg. Daily schedules)
- Issues with Remote Learning
- Goals for SEPAC: top issues to address this year

- Kathy Davidoff and Jeanette Velasquez will take the lead on sending the survey out and gathering emails

### **Approval of Minutes**

- Lisa Lappi shared minutes from February 26, 2020 SEPAC meeting on her screen so that all remaining members could read the minutes on the screen
- Lisa Lappi motioned to approve. Maija Cirulis Gooch gave a second. Meetings were approved unanimously.

**Discussion of Additional Board Responsibilities:** Ms. Cirulis-Gooch discussed the possibility of having more specific board roles to support the co-chairs (eg. Family Engagement, Social Media, Education, etc.) ACTION ITEM—Maija to create a list to discuss at the next meeting.

**Adjournment:** Maija Cirulis Gooch made a motion to adjourn at 8:52pm. Ms. Lappi seconded the motion. Unanimously agreed by all members. Meeting was adjourned.