



**WESTON SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA**

Tuesday December 15, 2020 7:00pm

Meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88496304669?pwd=UUxPMINQdWxvS2dBV2o0WXNOQ1JBZz09>

Meeting ID: 884 9630 4669 Passcode: 813973

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order concerning imposition on strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, meetings in the Town of Weston will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. We will strive to provide access to such meetings via a link to call in, or other similar option. In the event we are unable to accommodate the same, despite best efforts, we will post recorded sessions of the meeting as soon as possible following the same. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings

Attendees: Lisa Dutot, Kathy Davidoff (Co-Chair), Becky Cahill, Pedro Magno, Janice Deering, Annunziata Varela, Suzanne Ng, LaToya Rivers, Maija Cirulis Gooch (Secretary), Lisa Lappi (Co-chair), Lauren Kelley, Stephanie Mazitschek, Alyson Muzila (School Committee member), Rachel Stewart (School Committee Liaison and School Committee Member), Onika Jenkins, Mr. Kelley, Grace Colman, Christy O'Brien

7:05pm Call to order

7:05 Discussion on Disabilities at Weston High School, with Principal Paul Peri

-Introduced by Lisa Lappi, Mr. Paul Peri gave a short introduction of himself

-Topics discussed include:

- TEC center staffing
- Philosophies and experiences around Transition
- Stigma of special education
- Post-Covid evaluation of Special Education learning gaps
- Google Classroom & the executive functioning issues around navigating the remote learning experience
- Anxiety in the pandemic

-Rachel Stewart: (all comments/questions are paraphrased) Given the cutbacks, particularly around TEC center, are personnel reductions envisioned? Mr. Peri stressed the importance of the TEC center, and surround students with support. His understanding at this point is that there is one less assistant, and there is discussions/questions about what could be done.

-Alyson Muzila: What experiences/philosophies do you have around transition? Mr. Peri spoke about wanting to help things find their passions, including extra curriculums.

-Lisa Lappi: How do we deal with the stigma of special education? Some parents in Weston are angered about special education kids getting more resources/attention. What suggestions do you have for us? Mr. Peri responded that the current generation of kids are remarkably supportive and caring. It may not be a kid thing, but an adult thing. The equity issue is tied into this. Communication and education will help to break down those walls.

-Lauren Kelley: What kind of thinking/planning about evaluating special education students after the pandemic? Mr. Peri said he will be leaning on the Special Services team. Weston has been developing a lot over the course of this pandemic. We will need to look at the whole picture. The IST weekly meeting allows for planning at an individual level.

-Lauren Kelley: Is there any structured communication testing with the remote learning platforms/Google Classroom? Is there any collection of issues and input from students/parents? Mr. Peri said that on January 6th, the staff meeting will be focused on this issue. Ms. Kelley brought up the specific example of only parents getting a generic message about a Zoom class being missed. Victoria Kinnealey shared that the executive functioning/disorganization issues are having substantial impact. Google classroom in her (and other parents opinion) has focused on the teachers, but not taken it to student usability.

-Kathy Davidoff: Transition is very important as it drives the IEP for students after age 14. A goal is to get students to advocate and speak for themselves during the course of high school. A need for life skills and how to express the needs of their disability, without being ashamed. Transition is about Planning for Life after high school, and the IEP team should consider: Academic and Non-academic courses, Employment and Training opportunities, Independent and Community Living when the IEP team is developing a plan

8:05 **Planning for Autism Awareness Month (April 2021)**

-Focus on Neurodiveristy and other issues as well

-Anyone interested in helping out on this should reach out to Maija Gooch (mcirulis@umich.edu)

-Movie night recommendation was made

8:10 **Update on WPS District Policies**

Kathy Davidoff discussed the restraint policy and the procedures are currently being developed. Anyone who is interested in reviewing the proposed procedures (including behavior management, exclusionary tactics/time outs, classroom evacuations) should reach out Student Services or Kathy Davidoff.

Discussion on what policies are up to be reviewed next and the benefits of having a plan/calendar of policy review.

8:22 **Approve Minutes from previous meeting.**

Maija Gooch shared that the minutes from our November 23rd meeting were posted on westonsepac.com. Maija Cirulis Gooch made a motion to approve. Lisa Lappi provided a second. A voice vote was taken, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

8:24 **Other business**

Discussion on the importance of teaching time management and executive functioning

8:35

Adjournment

Maija Cirulis Gooch made a motion to adjourn. Victoria Kinnealey seconded. All members unanimous motion was adjourned at 8:35.