



Acton-Boxborough Special Education Parent Advisory Council

Business Meeting November 18, 2015

I. Call to Order

Amanda Bailey called the meeting to order at 9:05 p.m. following the presentation from Daniel Perlman, special education attorney. AB SpEd PAC Board members Amanda Bailey, Bill Guthlein, and Kathy Luce were present as well as School Committee liaison to the PAC Paul Murphy and four other members.

II. Approval of Minutes

Meeting minutes from October 14, 2015, were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes as written and was passed unanimously.

III. Organizational/Business Issues

A. Expanding Extracurricular Opportunities and Access to Community Education

Acton Recreation is seeking commissioners. They would love to have the input of a member with ideas on ways to expand outreach to the disability community. The issue of children needing support in Community Ed programs was also discussed.

B. Department Guidelines on Policy RE: Timely Responses to Parent Communications

Coordinators are supposed to respond within 24 hours. They will not respond to advocates, but will respond to lawyers or parents. The Out of District (OOD) Coordinator has a heavy caseload currently, so the 24-hour response time is not happening. Some parents have been waiting over one week for a response, which is troubling. Amanda noted that parents can have paperwork date-stamped if they bring it to the Pupil Services office.

C. Preliminary Budget Items

Parents should refer to last year's forecasted items around bringing down learning center caseloads in the elementary schools. Discussions about Extended School Year (ESY) are ongoing.

D. Proposed Pupil Services Leadership and Structure Changes

There is a proposal under review by the School Committee to make the Director of Pupil Services an Assistant Superintendent of Student Services with a national search commencing in December. This position would not be required to hold special education administrator licensure. The PAC believes that it should. The position of Director of Special Education will remain the same.

E. 2015 Population Trends

The updated report has been sent to boards in both towns and emphasizes the increase in High Needs populations.

F. Federation Workshops Update

The recent Basic Rights workshop had about 30 attendees. There were around ten last year. This year we again co-sponsored with Sudbury and Maynard. The PAC will hold the “An IEP for My Child” workshop in the spring. This workshop goes more in depth on goals, the service grid, and delivery.

G. Parenting Support Hour (formerly Parenting Challenging Children)

The next meeting is December 9 at Acton Memorial Library from 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

IV. New Business

- 1) IEP Progress Reports were distributed. They have been coming out later than they should. There is a proposal to expedite their distribution through the Parent Portal. This would also save money for the district on paper and mailing costs.
- 2) The parent/guardian survey results have not been published yet because the co-author has been out-of-state.
- 3) The topic of dyslexia was brought up. Since the *Beacon* article in the fall, there has been more attention to this issue. It was noted that there is no district-wide program.
- 4) The district is pursuing a cohesive program to teach executive functioning skills.
- 5) There was some discussion about social-emotional supports and how students with ASD need this in extra-curricular settings.

V. Adjournment – the meeting adjourned at 10 p.m.

VI. Next Meeting – December 16, 2015, in the R.J. Grey Library following the PAC holiday party at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Luce, Secretary