



Acton-Boxborough Special Education
Parent Advisory Council
(AB SpEd PAC)
Business Meeting

Wednesday, September 14, 2016, at 7:30 p.m. in the RJ Grey Junior High library

Agenda

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Minutes

Review and approval of June 8, 2016, meeting minutes

III. Organization/Business Issues

- A. Student Services Staffing & Organizational Changes
- B. Updates from Summer Meeting with New Student Services Leadership
 - 1. Open Issue & Budget Plan Follow Up
 - 2. Implementation of Massachusetts Tiered System of Support
- C. Updates from Monthly Meeting with Director of Special Education
- D. Seek Candidates for Secretary & Elect New Officer(s)
- E. New Guidance from Federal Department of Education & State RE: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Behavioral Supports, Transition
- F. Speaker & Support Group Schedule for the Year
 - 1. Cosponsoring Sarah Ward March 7, 2017, as part of Family Learning Series
 - 2. First Support Group Meeting Saturday, September 17, from 1-3 p.m. at St. Matthews United Methodist Church, Acton

IV. New Business – Other topics on people’s minds

V. Open Issues

- A. MCAS – 4th grade ELA performance for students with disabilities is weak
- B. Concerns about the process for combining outside specialists’ recommendations with district evaluations/recommendations and appropriately incorporating those recommendations into the IEP
- C. Mandatory special education training/professional development for regular and special education staff – hiring dual-certified staff
- D. Enhanced Extended School Year, before-, and after-school programming
- E. Increased use of technology in IEP development, revision, & communication
- F. Out of District findings from 2015 parent/guardian survey counter overall positive trend
- G. Need for consistent K-12 executive functioning curriculum

VI. Adjournment

All AB SpEd PAC meetings are open to the public. We encourage parents of children with special needs and others interested in special education to attend. Please check our website (www.abspedpac.org) for information regarding upcoming events.

VII. Next Meeting

Wednesday, October 19, 2016, at 7:30 p.m. in the RJ Grey Junior High library



Acton-Boxborough Special Education Parent Advisory Council

Business Meeting
June 8, 2016

I. Call to Order

Amanda Bailey called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m. Board member Co-Chairs Amanda Bailey and Bill Guthlein, Past PAC Chair Nancy Sherburne, Secretary Kathy Luce, and Standing Committee Chair Blossom Davies were present as well as the Director of Special Education, School Committee representative Paul Murphy, and six other members.

II. Approval of Minutes

Meeting minutes from May 11, 2016, were reviewed. One typographical error was corrected and a motion was made to approve the minutes and passed unanimously.

III. Organizational/Business Issues

A. Monthly Meeting Updates

The PAC hopes to continue monthly meetings with the new Student Services leadership. The outgoing Director of Special Education will come back in the fall for meetings to help with transition.

LEAP (Low-Income Education Access Program) is a state program. DESE is working with a cohort of Massachusetts districts, collaboratives, and agencies to assess why disproportionality in special education identification and/or placement is occurring for low-income students. More information is on the DOE website. The Director of Special Education ordered books on poverty in education as a resource for principals and special educators following a recent speaker training.

Regular staff certifications are ongoing. There is new training for staff with the transition. The outgoing Director of Special Education will pass along the procedural/policy manual to new staff.

Student Services is working on more consistent parent and private evaluator access to resource rooms across all schools.

B. Staffing

Pamela Smith will be the new Special Education Director. Elizabeth Alberts will take the Pathways Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) position. The Educational Team Leader at the high school has not been filled yet. The psychologists at Blanchard and Gates have retired. Functional Behavior Assessments (FBAs) for certain students will not necessarily be conducted by CBAs.

C. Annual Update & 2015 Parent/Guardian Survey Findings—Presentation to School Committee on 6/9/2016 and the survey report will be available on the PAC site

D. Seek AB SpEd PAC Candidates and Elect New Officers

The slate of officers for the 2016-17 PAC was created.

Amanda Bailey—Chair (can have up to three)

Blossom Davies—Standing Committee Chair

Bill Guthlein—Past PAC Chair

Secretary—none (can have two)

The slate of officers was moved and approved. The PAC hopes to fill vacancies in September.

E. PAC Goals/Priorities for 2016-17 School Year

1. Relationship with new administration
2. APPLE 2nd year implementation
3. Cohost Basic Rights, other workshops with Student Services
4. Parent/Guardian Special Education Handbook revision
5. Academic progress beyond Student Growth Percentile (SGP)
6. Communication, trust issues at preschool level per parent/guardian survey
7. Numerous Out of District issues found in parent/guardian survey
8. Extended School Year determinations and extracurricular programming access
9. IEP & 504 sign off policy
10. Back to school social event

F. Review & Approve Revised Open Issues

The items on the agenda in italics (B-C) no longer hold. The underlined items (E-H) still require additional information. B was taken off the list. There was some disagreement over whether to take item C off the list.

IV. New Business

A regional PAC meeting with AB, Lexington, Concord, and Sudbury facilitated by Leslie Leslie of MassPAC was discussed. Many towns struggle with level of engagement among parents, how to connect to people. The Federation for Children with Special Needs is developing new transition materials and workshops for families.

The Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, the Elementary Special Education Coordinator, and others will be presenting on SRSD (Self-Regulated Strategy Development) at an upcoming School Committee meeting.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Luce, Secretary