



## Acton-Boxborough Special Education Parent Advisory Council

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### Business Meeting February 15, 2017

#### I. Call to Order

Amanda Bailey called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. PAC Board member Chair Amanda Bailey, Past PAC Chair Bill Guthlein, Standing Committee Chair Blossom Davies, Secretary Ann Iandiorio, Special Education Director Pam Smith, and six other members were present.

#### II. Approval of Minutes

Meeting minutes from November 16, 2016, were not yet available.

#### III. Organizational/Business Issues

##### A. Monthly Meeting with Special Education Director

A brief meeting occurred due to the Student Services department's work with the Coordinated Program Review (CPR) team. Procedures around Extended School Year eligibility were discussed.

##### B. Coordinated Program Review Update

CPR has been Tuesday – Thursday of this week (February 14-16). File review went well. Program Quality Assurance is changing its name and branching out from compliance to include outcomes (closing achievement gaps) and working to help PACs be more effective. The PAC met with the state team today to provide feedback. Surveys to random families will be coming. Only one family has requested to speak to the CPR team.

##### C. Budget Items

Staff requested include a 0.8 psychologist for Douglas and the preschool. A licensed social worker for high school will let guidance counselors return to advising. An elementary Educational Team Leader (ETL) will take over coverage of at least two schools and Out of District (OOD) elementary oversight responsibilities. The Special Education Director currently covers McCarthy-Towne and Merriam and OOD is contracted. The long-term plan would be to have three ETLs with responsibility for two schools each. With more ETLs the special educators would have more time for direct service to students. ETLs would do more 3-year reviews and work with placement of new students. Special educators would still do annual IEPs. There is a necessary expansion proposed for the K-3 Pathways program at Blanchard. A second Pathways classroom would be added with a special educator and a 0.2 speech and language pathologist. A plan to add another elementary special educator (Conant) is still being considered.

##### D. Extended School Year Clarification RE: Qualifying & Programming Questions.

Families have been told ESY eligibility requires regression. The PAC requested a copy of the district policy and procedures for determining ESY eligibility. Student Services provided a copy of the form used to determine the need for ESY. The procedure manual for the district is being written this year, hence the lack of a policy document. Once the manual is completed, parent access to procedures will depend on request. Some districts have procedures online for parents to access.

#### E. Speakers and Support Group Schedule

1. Next support group meeting Saturday, March 4, from 1-3 p.m. at St. Matthews United Methodist Church, Acton – The group is thinking of publishing notes to attract more attendees and looks to reach out to younger families. The notes would be about topics discussed not about individuals.
2. Sarah Ward on Executive Functioning & Resilience Tuesday, March 7, from 7-8:30 p.m. at RJ Grey Junior High. The PAC is cosponsoring the event.
3. Basic Rights in Special Education & the transition presentation will be rescheduled.

#### IV. NEW BUSINESS

The Federation for Children with Special Needs Visions of Community Conference is March 4 at Seaport World Trade Center. The PAC has one free ticket to be assigned at random from those who express interest by noon Friday.

Emphasis on transitions was mentioned in the CPR interview. Currently there is not much data on how kids do after high school. The school only hears from people who want to reply to a survey after graduation. Massachusetts starts planning as of 14 years old. Students must be invited to Team meetings at 14, but some are not ready for that at 14. There are many workshops offered in the state and resources available in the district.

Parents are looking for clarification as to why principals attend Team meetings and what their role is there. They are sometimes left off meeting invitation forms and their participation and input varies greatly among schools. Student Services will follow up.

Professional Development – Social emotional training is ongoing. Blanchard did a school-wide Autism training to help support students in the new Pathways program.

Massachusetts Tiered System of Support – Research is being conducted this year about what general education teachers will require to put supports in place.

Outreach – Looking for PAC members to serve as a liaison to Danny's Place or Acton Committee on Disabilities.

#### V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

#### VI. NEXT MEETING –

Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in the RJ Grey Junior High library

*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](http://www.abspedpac.org)) for information regarding upcoming events.*

*Respectfully submitted by Ann Iandiorio, Secretary*