

Acton-Boxborough Special Education Parent Advisory Council (AB SEPAC)

Business Meeting Minutes December 19, 2018

I. Call to Order

Amanda Bailey called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. AB SEPAC Co-Chairs Amanda Bailey and Carrie Weaver, Past PAC Chair Bill Guthlein, Secretary Melissa Brown, Director of Special Education Pam Smith, School Committee liaisons to the SEPAC Paul Murphy and Diane Baum, and five other community members were present.

II. Approval of Minutes

Meeting minutes from November 14, 2018, were reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Organizational/Business Issues

A. Monthly Meeting with Student Services

The transition to one-tier bussing for elementary school students has been challenging for some families of students with disabilities. Driveway stops are now considered specialized (with the exception of scheduled stops). Parents of children requiring bus accommodations are encouraged to have a conversation with their team and document them in the IEP. Parents should utilize the communication map in seeking a resolution to issues related to transportation.

Student Services will release Extended School Year (ESY) dates and times in January to help families to schedule summer activities.

A letter with a link to a survey accompanies newly-issued IEPs. Student Services and the SEPAC highly encourage parents and guardians to provide feedback about their experiences in working with their team to develop the IEP. Responses are anonymous.

The transition to electronic communication through PowerSchool Special Education (PS-SE) was discussed. Progress reports on IEP goals must be issued at least as often as general education report cards. The parent portal should have progress reports available for families “active” in PS-SE (those who have responded to an IEP within the past year). Progress reports for this year will be staggered and available as schools issue their general ed report cards. Families with children in Out of District (OOD) placements will receive progress reports in the mail as OOD schools do not all use PS-SE.

B. Proposed FY20 Budget Items

The following have been requested for the FY20 budget:

- 1.6 FTE Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) to be split among Pathways (0.4 FTE), RJ Grey (0.2 FTE), and TBD (1.0)
- FTE Psychologist at RJ Grey
- FTE Special Educator at RJ Grey
- FTE Elementary Team Chair
- 19-hour increase in counseling support (to a full FTE) at the high school

- Wraparound services contract

The SEPAC strongly supports the additional BCBA support as current caseloads are very high.

C. Updates on Selected Goals and Priorities

The mini-survey will now be released in January given that the district issued surveys related to the school building project and school schedules in the past month.

The Basic Rights workshop on December 10 was a success, with nearly 30 people in attendance. Handouts and more information are available from the SEPAC. A second workshop will also be offered in conjunction with the Concord/Concord-Carlisle SEPAC. Options include Effective Communication with IEP Teams, An IEP for My Child, and MCAS. Feedback on additional ideas is welcomed.

The rights to screen “Intelligent Lives” would cost \$145. We should consider finding a speaker to facilitate a community discussion following the movie. We could invite other local SEPACs to co-sponsor the event. A trailer of the film is available online.

Mass Advocates for Children will provide a workshop in late winter to discuss school-wide and individual approaches to mitigate bullying. A current concern is that the social-emotional curriculums taught in the schools do not address social media. Issues may be difficult to resolve as teachers and administrators may not be able to share specific information about other students with parents who have a child being bullied or carrying out the bullying.

IV. New Business

No new business was forthcoming.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

VI. Next Meeting

Wednesday, January 9, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. in the Parker Damon Building Library

All AB SEPAC 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.absepac.org) for information regarding upcoming events.

Respectfully submitted by Melissa Brown, Secretary