

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

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## Business Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, September 16, 2020, at 7:30 p.m. Virtual Meeting Over Zoom

To attend: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88265343433>

To call in: +1 646 876 9923

Meeting ID: 882 6534 3433

### I. Call to Order

### II. Approval of Minutes

Review and approval of June 10, 2020, meeting minutes

### III. Organization/Business Issues

A. Updates from Department of Elementary & Secondary Education

1. Special Education Learning Plans

2. Compensatory Services

B. Updates from Interim Special Education Director

C. Seek Nominations & Elect Secretaries for 2020-2021 School Year

D. Updates on Goals & Priorities for the 2020-2021 School Year

1. Address & Remove Barriers to SEPAC Participation and SEPAC Leadership for BIPOC Parents/Guardians of Children with Disabilities

2. Monitor State Guidance & Families' Experiences Regarding Reopening Schools

a. Feedback Form Trends, Survey(s)

b. Remote Academy

3. Community Outreach: PTO Chairs, Special Ed Coordinators, Other SEPACs

### IV. New Business – Other topics on people's minds

### V. Open Issues

A. MCAS performance vulnerable for students with disabilities

B. Mandatory special education training/professional development for regular and special education staff – hiring dual-certified staff

C. Increasing opportunities for meaningful inclusion across domains

D. Enhanced Extended School Year, before-, and after-school programming

E. Increased use of technology in IEP development, revision, & communication

F. Following up on communication issues noted as barriers to overall satisfaction and subgroup trends for Out of District, Early Childhood, and Specific Learning Disabilities identified via 2015 and 2017 parent/guardian surveys


G. Need for consistent K-12 executive functioning curriculum

### VI. Adjournment

*All AB SEPAC meetings are open to the public. We encourage caregivers of children with disabilities and others interested in special education to attend. See [absepac.org](http://absepac.org) for information regarding upcoming events.*

### VII. Next Meeting

October 14, 2020, at 7:30 p.m. Virtual Meeting Over Zoom Followed by Friends of 501(c)(3) Meeting



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

## Business Meeting

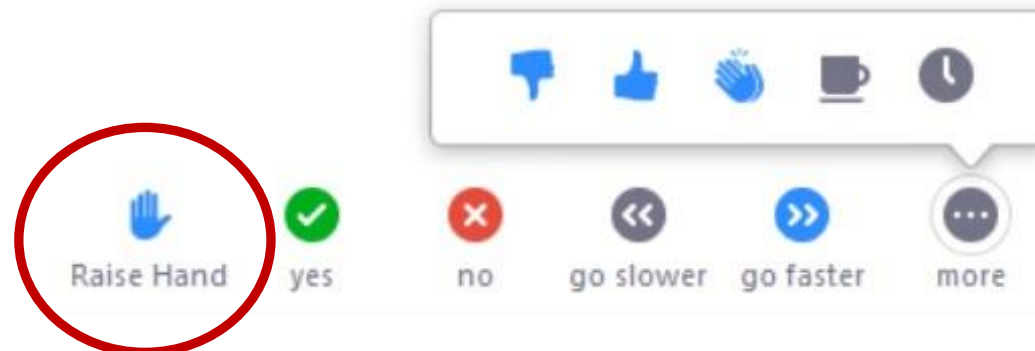
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September 16, 2020

# I. Call to Order

## Virtual Meeting Participation

- SEPAC meetings are public and subject to Open Meeting Law
- Participation may not take place via the chat box
- Votes will be conducted by roll call
- To be recognized by the Chairs, please use the raise hand function in the Participants window



# Our Mission

**To ensure understanding, respect, support,  
and the appropriate education of all children in our community.**

The Special Education Parent Advisory Council's  
duties under state law include:

*“advising the district on matters that pertain to the education and safety of students with disabilities and meeting regularly with school officials to participate in the planning, development and evaluation of the school district’s special education programs.”*

## II. Approval of Minutes

- Review and approval of June 10, 2020, meeting minutes
- We will **vote to approve the minutes as written or amended if necessary**
- Voting will be by roll call
- If you are not a voting member (parent/guardian of a child with a disability residing or attending school in Acton or Boxborough), please ABSTAIN



## III. Organization/Business Issues

- A. Updates from Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE)
- B. Updates from Interim Special Education Director
- C. Seek Nominations & Elect Secretaries for 2020-2021 School Year
- D. Updates on Goals & Priorities for the 2020-2021 School Year

## A. Updates from DESE

September 3 DESE letter to families notes:

1. Families and school administrators will need to discuss if and how students will receive special education services differently than as written in the IEP
2. Family input about their child's progress and needs is critical
3. Schools and districts should **fully implement your child's IEP** and provide a free and appropriate public education (FAPE), regardless of remote, in-school, or hybrid instruction
4. Students with disabilities have been prioritized for receiving in-person instruction

# DESE Updates Cont'd

## 1. Special Education Learning Plans

- Will document how your child's IEP services will be delivered this year
- Does NOT result in a change to your child's IEP
- All services are to be provided; delivery method is flexible (in-person or remote)
- Least Restrictive Environment applies
- Plan should be developed in discussion with you
- Notice of service delivery changes to be made via N1 form



# DESE Updates Cont'd

## 2. Compensatory Services

- Guidance released August 17
- Three terms to describe the supports & services students may need to address the impact on their learning from the suspension of in-person education
- To be determined on an individual basis with parent/guardian input

### Technical Assistance Advisory Released

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Special Education Technical Assistance Advisory 2021-1: COVID-19 Compensatory Service and Recovery Support for Students with IEPs](#)
  - **General education recovery support**
    - To address students' needs and reorient them to learning
  - **COVID-19 Compensatory Services (CCS)**
    - To remedy skill or knowledge loss or lack of effective progress because of the suspension of in-person education related to the pandemic
  - **New IEP services**
    - To address new areas of disability-related need

# Terms to Know

- **General Education Recovery Support:** may be made available to students with and without disabilities who need it to address educational and social-emotional needs and reorient them to learning (e.g., District Curriculum Accommodation Plan)
- **COVID-19 Compensatory Services (CCS):** for students with IEPs to remedy skill or knowledge loss or lack of effective progress due to delayed, interrupted, suspended, or inaccessible IEP services—*decisions to be made no later than December 15, 2020*
- **New IEP Services:** to address new areas of disability-related need for students with IEPs

## B. Updates from Interim Special Education Director

Communication to families on September 16 with information about

- COVID Special Education Learning Plans
- Increased In-Person Learning Time
- New Staff & Roles
- Compensatory Services
- PowerSchool
- DocuSign
- SEPAC
- Information from DESE for families
- *Parent's Notice of Procedural Safeguards*

# Special Education Coordinators

Joe Gibowicz – Early Childhood

Allison Leahy – Conant/McCarthy-Towne

Kelly Morrissey – Blanchard/Merriam

Allison Warren – Gates

Mary Ellen Coyne-Gordon – Douglas

Lindsay Bryan – Remote Learning Program

Tara Kirousis – RJ Grey Junior High School

Susan Ervais-Bohmiller – ABRHS

Matt Kidder – Out-of-District

Debbie Dixon – Interim Special Education Director

## C. Seek Nominations & Elect Secretaries for 2020-2021 School Year

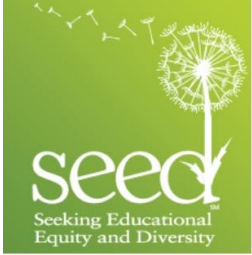
- The AB SEPAC can have up to two secretaries
- We will take nominations for secretary, **then vote to elect up to two (2) people**
- Voting will be by roll call
- If you are not a voting member (parent/guardian of a child with a disability residing or attending school in Acton or Boxborough), please ABSTAIN

## D. Updates on Goals & Priorities for the 2020-2021 School Year

### 1. Address & Remove Barriers to SEPAC Participation and SEPAC Leadership for BIPOC Parents/Guardians of Children with Disabilities

- Following up on training in conjunction with the ABRSD
- Remote meeting format
- Additional demographic questions on surveys
- Continuing to promote low- and no-cost events and trainings with available scholarship information
- Other ideas?





NOTE: THIS MEETING IS BEING RECORDED

# SEED in Partnership with the ABRSD

The National SEED Project (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) creates conversational communities to drive personal, organizational and societal change toward greater equity and diversity

The goal of seminars is to:

- Develop the ability to listen more effectively to the experiences of others in order to build our cultural awareness and sensitivity
- Establish a shared vocabulary and foundation of knowledge pertaining to **systems** of oppression, power, and privilege
- Recognize how one's own experiences and "schooling" about diversity is a prelude to creating more equitable educational environments
- Consider the ways in which each of us has the agency to effect change in our individual roles as leaders in the district

Acton-Boxborough SEPAC  
abrsdsepac@gmail.com

## D. Updates on Goals & Priorities for the 2020-2021 School Year

### 2. Monitor State Guidance & Families' Experiences Regarding Reopening Schools

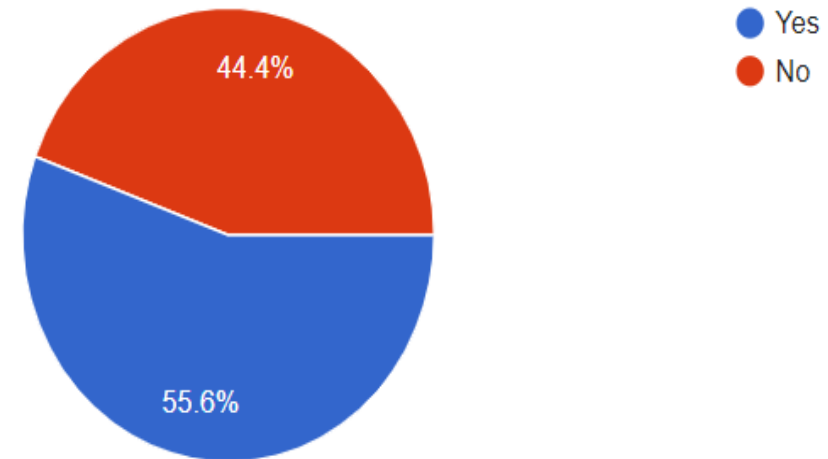
- a. Feedback Form Trends, Survey(s)
  - b. Remote Academy
- Timing of survey(s)?
  - Feedback from remote academy families?

# School Reopening Feedback Form

- 135 responses since July 20
- Sharing information with the district on a rolling basis
- Open-ended response trends to be included in SEPAC presentation to the ABRSC on October 1
- Caregivers looking for resources and connections from the SEPAC

Do you know who from the district to contact with questions or input about your child's return to school in the fall?

133 responses



## D. Updates on Goals & Priorities for the 2020-2021 School Year

### 3. Community Outreach: PTO Chairs, Special Ed Coordinators, Other SEPACs

- SEPAC has a seat at the joint PTO/PTF/PTSO round table
- Invited last year to speak to two elementary school communities about continuum of supports and basic rights
- Reached out to special ed coordinators
- Communicating with surrounding SEPACs regarding workshops
- Reestablished monthly drop-in caregiver support hour

NOTE: THIS MEETING IS BEING RECORDED

## IV. New Business

Other topics on  
people's minds

Acton-Boxborough SEPAC  
[abrsdsepac@gmail.com](mailto:abrsdsepac@gmail.com)



# Feedback Opportunities & More Information

AB SEPAC ongoing feedback form at [absepac.org](https://absepac.org)

DESE Info to Special Education Directors  
[doe.mass.edu/covid19/sped.html](https://doe.mass.edu/covid19/sped.html)

Mass Advocates for Children (MAC)  
[massadvocates.org/covid19](https://massadvocates.org/covid19)

Special Needs Advocacy Network (SPaN)  
[spanmass.org/covid-19.html](https://spanmass.org/covid-19.html)

Federation for Children with Special Needs (FCSN)  
[fcsn.org](https://fcsn.org)



## V. Open Issues

- A. MCAS performance vulnerable for students with disabilities
- B. Mandatory special education training/professional development for regular and special education staff – hiring dual-certified staff
- C. Increasing opportunities for meaningful inclusion across domains
- D. Enhanced Extended School Year, before-, and after-school programming
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- G. Need for consistent K-12 executive functioning curriculum

## VI. Adjournment

- We will **vote to adjourn the meeting**
- Voting will be by roll call
- If you are not a voting member (parent/guardian of a child with a disability residing or attending school in Acton or Boxborough), please ABSTAIN

**Next Meeting October 14, 2020**

Followed by a Friends of AB SEPAC 501(c)(3) meeting

# Thanks & Contact Information

Our thanks to Interim Special Education Director Debbie Dixon  
and the Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee for their  
ongoing collaboration

absepac.org

 @absepac

abrsdsepac@gmail.com