

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

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## **Business Meeting Agenda**

Wednesday, November 16, 2022, at 7 p.m. Virtual Meeting Over Zoom

To attend: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88216396903>

To call in: +1 646 876 9923

Meeting ID: 882 1639 6903

### **I. Call to Order**

### **II. Approval of Minutes**

Review and approval of October 19, 2022, meeting minutes

### **III. Organization/Business Issues**

- A. Department of Elementary & Secondary Education Office of Public School Monitoring Presentation RE: Tiered Focus Monitoring Process
- B. Updates from Monthly Meeting With Director of Special Education
  - 1. Staffing
  - 2. MCAS Performance for Students With Disabilities
- C. CASE Transportation Update
- D. Private Summer Program Documentation Requests
- E. AB SEPAC Priorities for 2022-2023
  - 1. Outreach & Community Building: Blanchard Playground Rebuild, McCarthy-Towne PTO Presentation, Coffee & Conversation
  - 2. Participate in State Tiered Focus Monitoring Process
  - 3. Basic Rights: Transition Planning Workshop 6:30-8:30 p.m. January 9, 2023

### **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 issues and subgroup trends identified via 2021-2022 parent/guardian survey
- G. Need for consistent K-12 executive functioning curriculum

### **VI. Adjournment**

### **VII. Next Meeting**

Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at 7 p.m. RJ Grey Junior High Library



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

## **Business Meeting**

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November 16, 2022

# I. Call to Order

## Virtual Meeting Participation

- SEPAC meetings are public
- 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 October 19, 2022, meeting minutes (draft available at [absepac.org](http://absepac.org))
- 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. Department of Elementary & Secondary Education Office of Public School Monitoring Presentation RE: Tiered Focus Monitoring Process
- B. Updates from Monthly Meeting With Director of Special Education
- C. CASE Transportation Update
- D. Private Summer Program Documentation Requests
- E. AB SEPAC Priorities for 2022-2023
  - 1. Outreach & Community Building
  - 2. Participate in State Tiered Focus Monitoring Process
  - 3. Basic Rights: Transition Planning Workshop 1/9/23



# A. Tiered Focus Monitoring Presentation

- Details and previous reports can be found on the DESE site
- All parents of students with disabilities will receive an online survey; *the SEPAC strongly encourages your participation*
- The SEPAC chairs will be interviewed as part of the on-site visit
- Parents and other individuals may contact Corey Steinman, PSM Chairperson, at 781-338-3742 or [Corey.E.Steinman@mass.gov](mailto:Corey.E.Steinman@mass.gov) to request an interview

## B. Updates from Monthly Meeting With Director of Special Education

- Staffing
  - Open positions found at [abschools.org](http://abschools.org)
- MCAS Performance for Students With Disabilities
  - District will present to the School Committee in December on subgroup performance
- Student Mental Health
  - Shift from William James INTERFACE Referral to Cartwheel
  - Need for parent/guardian support



# C. CASE Transportation Update

- Head of CASE Transportation met with Director of Special Education and SEPAC Co-Chair Abe Gutierrez
- Reviewed driver training procedures and parent/guardian grievance process; information not available on CASE site
- Driver shortages ongoing



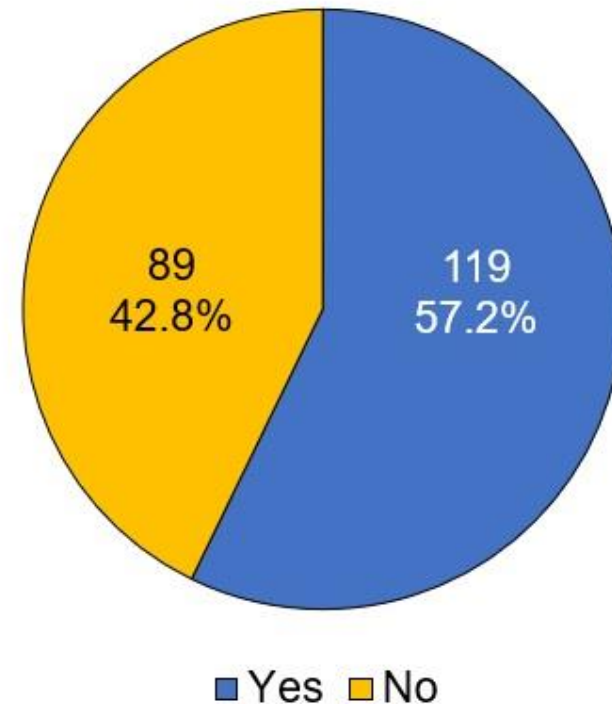
# D. Private Summer Program Documentation Requests

- Summer camps and therapeutic programs often request supporting documentation or recommendations from clinicians and providers
- Schools are routinely asked for this for students with and without disabilities
- Counselors typically respond to general program requests for recommendations, etc.
- SEPAC sought clarification regarding special education department practices

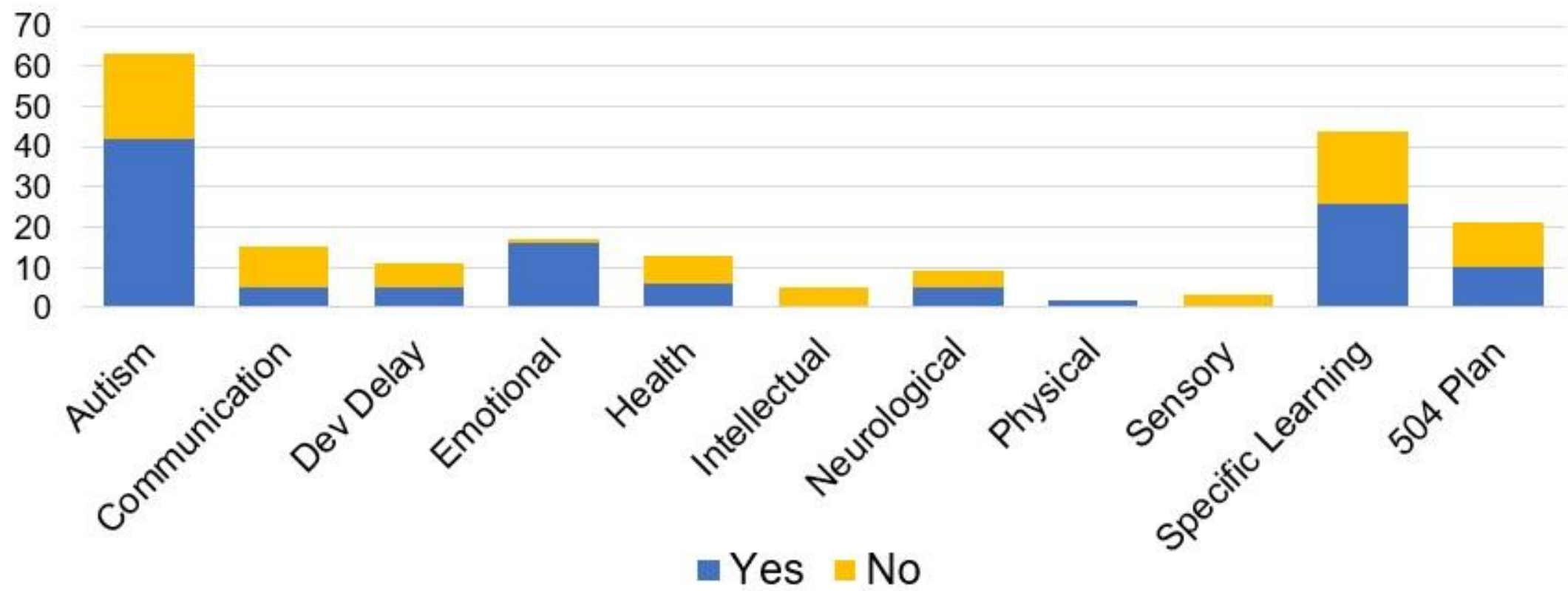
# Private Therapies

- Many families report pursuing outside services in addition to what their students receive in school
- Over half report supplementing
- Discrepancies by disability type
- Questions regarding equity, adequate in-school service provision, and progress monitoring

Q14: I supplement my student's special education services or 504 support with private therapy for their disability-related needs N=208



Q14 Private Therapy by Disability Type  
N=208



# E. AB SEPAC Priorities for 2022-2023

1. Outreach & Community Building
  - SEPAC consultation for Blanchard playground replacement
  - McCarthy-Towne PTSO presentation on continuum of student supports January 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in Parker Damon library
  - First coffee & casual conversation event
2. Participate in State Tiered Focus Monitoring Process
3. Basic Rights: Transition Planning (14+) workshop from the Federation for Children with Special Needs on January 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30 p.m. over Zoom



## 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 issues identified via 2021-2022 parent/guardian survey
- 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 December 14, 2022, 7 p.m. RJ Grey Junior High Library**  
**Meeting Information Available @absepac.org**

# Thanks & Contact Information

Our thanks to Director of Special Education Jen Truslow,  
Director of DEI Jen Faber,  
and the Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee for their  
ongoing collaboration

absepac.org  
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