



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

Business Meeting

Wednesday, October 22nd, 2014, at 7:30 pm in the RJ Grey Junior High library

Agenda

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Minutes

Review and approval of September 24, 2014, meeting minutes

III. Organization/Business Issues

A. *Population Trends* Report & School Committee Presentation Follow Up

B. Meeting with Superintendent and School Committee Chair

- Pleasure to meet Glenn Brand & Kristina Rychlik
- Shared history, development of positive working relationship with Pupil Services
- Discussed requested updates to SC policy and procedures re: the PAC to reflect current working relationship with the district and fully implement state mandate
- Discussed PAC perception issue with some SC members and administrators

C. Parent/Guardian Support Group Subcommittee Update

D. 2014 Parent & Guardian Survey

- Need to form subcommittee, start reviewing past questions, discuss timeline

E. Seeking Additional Officers & PTO Liaisons

- Secretary, standing committee chairs, Friends of treasurer
- Outreach to individual schools builds bridges, informs parents about PAC

F. Updates on Other Goals & Priorities for 2014-'15

- New practice requiring all teachers to sign off on student IEPs and 504s within 5 days of receiving a signed IEP/504 and prior to the start of each year
- Revise Special Education Parent Handbook to reflect pre-K-12 regionalization
- News about mandatory SpEd training for all staff recertification starting 2016

G. Basic Rights Workshop November 3rd, 7 pm, at Sudbury's Curtis Middle School library

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

V. Open Issues

A. MCAS – 4th and 7th grade ELA performance for students with disabilities is weak

B. Futures Education findings re: student to assistant ratios high by peer standards

C. Concerns about the process for combining outside specialists' recommendations with district evaluations/recommendations and appropriately incorporating those recommendations into the IEP

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

E. Enhanced summer school and after school/extracurricular programming

F. Increased use of technology in IEP development/revision process

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.

This meeting will be followed immediately by a brief Friends of AB SpEd PAC meeting.

File: BDFB

SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

The School Committees shall establish a parent advisory council on special education. Membership shall be offered to all parents of children with disabilities and other interested parties. The parent advisory council duties shall include but not be limited to: advising the school committee on matters that pertain to the education and safety of students with disabilities; meeting regularly with school officials to participate in the planning, development, and evaluation of the school committees' special education programs. The parent advisory council shall establish by-laws regarding officers and operational procedures. In the course of its duties under this policy, the parent advisory council shall receive assistance from the school committee without charge, upon reasonable notice, and subject to the availability of staff and resources.

LEGAL REFERENCE: M.G.L: 71B:3

Approved by APS/AB School Committees: May 1, 2008

SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Procedures

1. In accordance with School Committees' policy, File BDFB, the School Committee(s) may each year, subject to availability of member resources, appoint one or more of its members as the liaison(s) to the Special Education Parent Advisory Council for the term of one school year. The liaison(s) will be responsible for attending Special Education Parent Advisory Council meetings periodically and reporting back to the School Committees on the results of these meetings.
2. The Special Education Parent Advisory Council will be invited to present formally to the School Committee two times a year to:
 - Report to the School Committee on the goals of the Special Education Parent Advisory Council for the upcoming year; and
 - Report to the Committee on the progress on the goals of the Special Education Parent Advisory Council during the year.The Special Education Parent Advisory Council presentations to the School Committees shall be made at the September or October meeting and the June or July meeting, subject to the Special Education Parent Advisory Council's consultation with the Chair of the respective School Committees.
3. In accordance with the School Committees' policy, File BDFB, the Director of Pupil Services and the SPED PAC chairperson will meet quarterly to discuss planning, development and evaluation of the districts' special education programs. Other staff, SPED PAC Board members and the School Committee liaison(s) may also be included at these meetings.

Approved by APS/AB School Committees: May 1, 2008

AB SpEd PAC Proposed Changes to

SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL FILE: BDFB-R

Procedures

1. In accordance with School Committee policy, File BDFB, the School Committee may each year, subject to availability of member resources, appoint one or more of its members as the liaison(s) to the Special Education Parent Advisory Council for the term of one school year. The liaison(s) will be responsible for attending Special Education Parent Advisory Council meetings periodically and reporting back to the School Committee on the results of these meetings.
2. The Special Education Parent Advisory Council will be invited to present to the School Committee two times a year to share the organization's annual goals or other topics related to the education and safety of students with special needs. The Special Education Parent Advisory Council presentations to the School Committee shall be made at the September or October meeting and the June or July meeting unless otherwise mutually agreed. Moreover, the Special Education Parent Advisory Council is welcome to request time on the School Committee's meeting agenda and/or email input to the School Committee at any time.
3. In accordance with the School Committee's policy, File BDFB, the Director of Pupil Services and the Special Education Parent Advisory Council Chair(s) will meet monthly to discuss the planning, development and evaluation of the districts' special education programs. Other staff, Special Education Parent Advisory Council Board members and the School Committee liaison(s) may also be included in these meetings.