

SEPAC Meeting Notes March 12, 2018  
Location: Chelmsford High School, Career Center

Board Members: 1

Ali Barnes - Present

School committee Liaison: Dennis King - Not Present

Director of Student Services: Amy Reese - Not Present

Other Members: approx 17 Present

SEPAC sign in sheet typed - original copy filed in Secretary SEPAC binder

**Handout:** Basic Rights Flyer, Vacant Board Positions, SEPAC Presentation for School Committee DRAFT Outline

**Handout:** On table - *Buy A Brick Friendship Park form, Coping with Stress and Depression - Strategies for Families Webinar sheet, True Colors - Teambuilding Workshop sheet, Meeting Posting Procedures 2 sheets, Coordinated Program Review Corrective Action Plan 2 sheets*

**Handout:** From Bethany Rappoli *Decoding Dyslexia, 2 sheets*

**\*denotes amendments noted and made at 3/27/18 meeting**

Meeting Notes: Kristen Eriksen

Meeting called to order - Ali Barnes

Time: 6:35

Ali requested a volunteer to take minutes. Kristen Eriksen volunteered to take minutes.

**Agenda Item: listed in accordance to posted agenda sheet format**

**1. Approve minutes from January 2018 Meeting:**

Only one copy of minutes from January meeting available, so Ali asked that they be circulated through the room for review before voting for approval. Copy sent around the room.

**2. Good News:**

Chelmsford SEPAC website is set up! Currently being edited.

The line item in budget was increased from \$500-\$750! Now we can sponsor 2 workshops!

**3. Vacant Board Positions:**

Ali proposed using current by-laws to hold elections for open positions for Secretary, Treasurer and option of a co-chair to assist Ali. Page 3 of packet has description of open positions, which would be temporary to cover the rest of the 2017-2018 school year, with the exception of co-chair which would cover from now until May 2019.

Secretary - Laurie McCarron volunteered for this position, unanimously elected. Laurie has 4 children in CPS, 3 with SPED services. Has been involved with this SEPAC initiative since the beginning, created PAC-2-PAC as a place for all PAC officers across Ma to connect, attended Visions of Community, APPLE Inst. Training, Wrightslaw training conference, CHADD, she is very passionate about helping parents navigate SPED services.

Treasurer: Bethany Rappoli volunteered for this position, unanimously elected. Beth mentioned that she has no financial background. Beth has 3 children in CPS, one with dyslexia. She is very passionate about literacy, donated many books about literacy and dyslexia to the Chelmsford Public Library SEPAC section. She attended the Wrightslaw training conference and is active in Decoding Dyslexia (a grassroots advocacy agency). \*Beth works to promote literacy and testified at the State.

Co-Chair of SEPAC: Kristen Eriksen volunteered for this position, unanimously elected. Kristen has twins in the CPS, currently in and out of district placements. Kristen had to advocate passionately for her twins when Chelmsford did not have an active SEPAC. She feels driven to help rebuild this much needed resource. She attended the Wrightslaw training conference and Visions of Community.

Ali requested that all new board members provide contact information to Laurie McCarron for posting.

#### **4. Liaison Update:**

Still searching for Liaisons for McCarthy and South Row schools.

CHIPS: (H.S.) - Chips will be having a "turtle day", and touch a truck. Looking for trucks that are handicap accessible. Suggestion is to call LRTA for a bus. Common question from parents there is about timelines for meetings, assessments and reports.

BYAM: (C.dT.) All is quiet

CENTER: (L.D.) Updated PTO that \*SEPAC has a new Chair. Flyer handed out for Basic Rights training (3/15), concerns about the asterisk on report cards, next meeting 4/4/18. LD added that Council of Chelmsford Schools (COCS) will be meeting next Wednesday, 3/21/18 at McCarthy Library.

HARRINGTON: (J.D.) The last meeting \*included pick up - drop off. No SEPAC issues were discussed. Hopes to discuss inclusion workshop at next meeting. JD involved in principal search, asking for input on what SEPAC and parents involved in Special Ed would be looking for in the principal.

PARKER: (no initials) No big audience, as meeting was not well attended.

CHS: (no initials) Only 4 board members attended, nothing to report.

## **5. Old Business:**

Attendees of Vision of Community training at the FCSN reported back that the training was great. Several attendees have offered to talk a bit about it at next months meeting. Kristen Eriksen won the SEPAC lottery to attend. She thanked the SEPAC for the opportunity!

Basic Rights Training will be held this Thursday, 3/15 at 7 PM. The location has been changed to the CHS, probably at the Learning Commons (library). There will be a signage there to direct people. It is free to any parent from any town that would like to attend..

APPLE training: Provided by the FCSN is a training on how to run a SEPAC. We will not do this training this year.

True Colors: Team building workshop also put on by the FCSN, by Leslie M. Leslie. Is free. Plan to schedule this for the beginning of 2018-2019 school year. Put up for a vote, unanimously voted to schedule it for this fall.

Open Meeting Law: Ali Barnes is requesting a Q and A with someone in CPS to discuss this. Sharing anything from meetings is "OK" as long as it is not for business or voting purposes. \*There will be an OML training in Reading Ma. on Thursday, April 19, 2018 from 5:30 p-7:30p. More info on Mass.gov website.

Report Cards: JS (parent and liaison): Asterisks are used to show modified curriculum. Concerning for parents re-labeling and this being on report cards and transcripts that will continue to follow the student. Long discussion re this, DESE states it should not be there, OCR (Office for Civil Rights) in a letter dated 10/08 states it can be on report card, but not transcript, however, elementary schools don't have transcripts. CdT states that some martial arts dojo's post report cards for students and is concerned that the asterisk should be removed. Both middle schools use different grading systems, one letter grades and then other number grades and accelerated classes are noted. JS in closing states it is not good practice. Ali Barnes recommends that it be addressed with the School Committee and CPS administration.

***\*\*(Inserted pages 3 and 4 from minutes handout below, no amendments made after this point)***

G) Inclusion Informational Program: Harrington School is discussing this for their school. SEPAC proposed being involved or included to provide this for all schools. Several questions about implementation: Panel discussion with providers? Two sessions, for different grades? one for parents and one for students? Topic list: Harrington PTO wanted general info about how inclusion works, how gen ed and Special Ed work, how behavioral issues are handled.

A parent new to CPS's would have liked Special Ed to have been included at gen ed open house. This may be in the works for future workshops, and will be discussed at our next meeting and with CPS leaders.

6) Decoding Dyslexia Information: Presented by Bethany Rapoli. (See Attached handout) Bethany discussed statistics regarding ELA standards, the Decoding Dyslexia organization, and issues and concerns about lack of standard training and implementation at each school. Proposed that the Cofounder of Decoding Dyslexia of Massachusetts come to CPS for a workshop for SEPAC.

This was discussed, voted on (yes!) and in the planning phase.

7) Bylaw Subcommittee: Ali sent around a sign up sheet for people to sign if interested in being part of this committee.

8) School Committee Presentation Team: Ali sent around a sign up sheet with 3 proposed dates to meet to discuss and assist with this presentation.

9) CPR Corrective actions for SE 32: SE 32 is regarding a SEPAC. We rocked it! Met the deadline of 3/16/18 for phase one. Met with Amy Reese, DSS, formulated Standing bylaws, Basic Rights Workshop later this week, Still need sign in sheet from fall meetings, and approved minutes from 10/18 meeting.

Next deadline date is 6/1/18.

Parents can request a copy of the CPR self assessment by making a public records request to the town.

10) School Safety: Discussed ALICE drills. Chelmsford is beginning organizational and train the trainer in about a month. ALICE website sent Ali a brief statement about special ed considerations. Dr. Lang would take a recommendation from SEPAC.

Medford SEPAC had a large presentation where they interviewed regular and special ed teachers, administrators and students and parents. Presented to Crisis Management Team in Medford. Laura McCarron will share it on our facebook page.

Network with Live SMART (group of HS students)

ALEC training: for Emergency professionals to inform them about dealing with children with special needs. This is a grant. A parent will contact the police department about grant writing for this.

Parent suggested an input session with representatives from SEPAC to sit with the crisis team. JD and Kristen Eriksen offered to look into this.

11) Robert's Field Buy a Brick: Flyer included in packet tonight. Ali thanked the Robert's field committee for having a great input session with SEPAC members. All her points re accessibility for children with special needs were addressed in the building plan!

12) Lending a Hand: The Chelmsford Public Library is hosting a hand painting event at the library. A large canvas will be covered with children's handprints for a sign over the SEPAC

lending library area in the library. Sunday 4/22/18 2-4 PM. A suggestion was made to have a flyer made up about SEPAC and have a table with SEPAC members at this event.

13) Next meeting: 3/27/18

a) Meeting will begin with a guest speaker from Asperger Autism Network in Watertown. This will be a 10-15 minute presentation.

b) Outreach Program discussion

14) Other Business

a) Chips and Kindergarten orientation are coming up. J. D. will make a handout for these orientations that can also be used at the Lend a Hand event.

Motion to accept minutes of February meeting made by C.dT. Seconded by JS.

Motion to adjourn meeting tonight made by LD McCarron, Seconded by Bethany Rappoli.