

SEPAC Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2020

Location: Chelmsford High School
Learning Commons, located on Floor 3

Board

Ali Barnes, Co-Chair - Present
Kristen Eriksen, Co-Chair - Present
Laurie McCarron, Secretary - Present
Vyas Sanzgiri, Treasurer - Present

District

Amy Reese, Director of Special Education - Present
Amy Matson, Assistant Director - Present
Donna Newcomb, School Committee Liaison - Not Present

Members

Attendees Present: 10 approx

Handouts: added to SEPAC Binder

Note: copy of Special Ed. presentation requested to be posted on SEPAC web page

Start: 7:09p

Ali calls meeting to order

Agenda Item

1. Look over minutes from Jan. 23, 2020. No recommended changes. Motion to accept w/addition of date added. Motion seconded and unanimous.

2. School Committee - Presentation Subcommittee: Ali, Kristen and Laurie. Motion to accept made, motion seconded, motion unanimous.

Ali adding to the Agenda: Admin meeting SC Presentation. Few slides to add/update Present to SC w/ clarified points. Middle School, MCAS Scores and Motion to Accept made, motion seconded, motion unanimous.

3. Amy Reese, Amy Matson: Presentation:

Amy Reese and Amy Matson gave a presentation with a blank IEP form to help navigate members on the IEP document. "What's critical" was a highlight. Critical piece is any question members have, including "PLEP" Present Levels of Educational Performance pages (plep A, plep B). How disability effects progress.

Difference Education Framework, anything that has curriculum standard is "Plep A" (a child in preK or K, if Social Emotional, would be in Plep A).

Framework/Standard is Plep A. Anything else is Plep B. More details in slideshow presentation.

Focusing on the disability and anything that is impacting a student from making progress was discussed.

Amy stated that the district is charged with finding Primary Disability. "Skills they may be lacking". What would be seen as Goal areas and "how does the disability(ies) affect progress in the curriculum area(s). Accommodation: is something that levels the playing field does not change curriculum. ("Any child can be given an accommodation: not changing the curriculum. Ex. DCAP"). Some dialogue from the presentation: "Critical Piece: Content: Methodology/Delivery of Instruction: Performance Criteria: This is the specialized instruction piece. What's specialized instruction is required to make progress. Methodology: (99%? of the time) okay if some of these are blank..."

Amy R and Amy M defined the types of specially designed instruction. Amy R and Amy M answered specific Questions: "This section is usually by special educator. Reduced is modification. PLEP B: Other Educational Needs: Amy M. and Amy R. talked about the consultant they brought in, focused on "beefing" this section. "Goals are about skills".

Dialogue continues...

"PLEP B may be blank, because it may not apply. Other areas the disability may impact. An example may be: student needing services during lunch/recess (does not have a curriculum base). Focusing on this section - district is working on this part of the IEP. Basic understanding on what the Staff is learning. State is working on updating IEP. Work in progress. (note for Eligibility for future Eligibility is individualize). Skill based. Identify/identifying skills: Social, Communication, Problem Solving, Executive Functioning Skills, current performance levels/measurable annual goals. Benchmark/objective.

How are they measured? Data. Working with teachers.

Q. "Should be data driven?" A.M. "Yes". Progress notes. Q. "Can parent ask for Data to show growth or lack of growth?" AR. "Absolutely. Goal that is attainable...can reconvene the team...to obtain progress, to look at Goal."

Touched upon PreK and Elementary: Working on with Middle school and High School. Service Delivery can't touch upon the grid - **secretary note: ("time: is 7:45p")**. More questions/answers and dialogue included:

Q. Specifically about C Grid. "Who fills this section in?" A. "Special Ed instructor/teacher with para professional input." Parent Q. Non participation Justification ? Schedule Modification.

Presentation continued with: Transportation Services: a related service. Last piece State or District-Wide Assessment and MCAS information. State has broken into standard and non-standard accommodations - DESE outlined - student has to meet that criteria before Team can consider. Question: "Students w/ Autism? section for bullying? is that correct?" A. "There are questions that the team needs to consider in Additional Information. If 'yes' they reference." Discussion with further Q and A below...

If a student has medical diagnosis for Autism but not on an IEP/doesn't qualified. Discussion: Team charged with determining Primary Disability. (Question about medical vs. educational disability). Question on Exec. Functioning: how impacts student year to year. When do they learn how to do those skills? A. Could be in General Ed, could be in Special Ed/Study Skills. Shifts during middle school. District uses Curriculum. Question: Should be learning in Study Skills? Should there be data collected during study skills? March is SEL (social emotional learning focus). Comment about Brendan Meehan coming into Parker Middle School on a Prof. Development Day. Amy M. had to leave meeting. 8:06p. Anyone with further questions or concerns can email Amy R. Response Section: N1 - if parents "reject" that is not a reject-able part of the IEP. N1 clarified as typically the coversheet of IEP. Q. about N1. parent can write a response? Yes, but parents cannot reject. But if there is an error, or something omitted, parent can respond to amend. 8:13p discussion ended.

4. Public Input: Public sheets available on each table.

March 7th Volunteer Fair Senior Center Sat. 1-4. If any SEPAC members could attend. Open to all groups and Community Organizations. Email for clarification: NEXT. First week of May: Children's Mental Health Week. Post on fb page during that week - interested in 3-9. PPAL posted info. Opportunity: Ongoing Articles or Resources Shared. Share on FB page. NEW item: "more people need to come to Literacy Subcommittee meetings, the next meeting this Monday. Chelmsford Public Library in Conference Room: 6:00p."

Laurie's comments: Kristen/Ali noted?

5. Liaison Report: CHIPS: Dentist is coming tomorrow to talk to children about "Sugarbugs." The dentist office is volunteering their time (dentist name?). Byam: Walkathon May 16th, help w/Zen Den volunteering would be great. Talked about Rollerskating event w/less sensory. Input about Science Fair March 20th, maybe having an earlier time w/teachers (Zen Den), having one table for the display as an option. Discussion about options. Ali will connect w/interested members. High School: After prom breakfast. FCSN Navigation Bootcamp for College

6. Workshop Coordinator Report: Nothing in March. Suggestion for Brendan Meehan? One on Anxiety and one on Behavior (working on). Amy D.

7. Old Business

- a. Community Awards Coordinator - Discussion: Volunteers: Amy Domow: Coordinator, Kristen Eriksen, Laurie Grant, Patel and Vyes. additional volunteers. In April there is a plan to come back to SEPAC with a plan of action. Motion to carry that forward made, motion seconded. Vote unanimous.
- b. Literacy Subcommittee: Ali Barnes: 2 meetings, Amy and Linda H. attended first meeting. Ali updated members: Purpose of the subcommittee. Effects everyone. Feedback: students who fall into "gray area". Research from subcommittee 1. reading is not a natural process. 2. brain when reading. 3. Fluent accurate word recognition hallmark skill, poor readers are often...4. letters, blending. 5. reading is more than decoding words. 6. Teacher knowledge needed to teach literacy skills is important, how to support teachers. Meeting on Monday, March 2, CPL Conference Room. Hoping to meet with Kelly Rogers and following up with Dr. Hirsch. Online part: Focus Group: up in the air. Suggested something along the lines of a Twitter Chat. One point person to be the Social Media collector to then present to group. ii. Review and Approve Minutes: January 16, 2020 and Feb. 3rd (corrections of minutes: see Ali's "I have personally discussed reading concerns..." Feb. 3rd with amendments.) All in favor. Unanimous vote.

8. New Business:

- a. Nomination Coordinator - someone not interested. no volunteers at this time. Reach out to public. Connect Ed.
 - b. SEPAC Bill of Rights - Tabled for March. Post to SEPAC Website: Vote will still be planned for April
9. March meeting: March 26th 7:00 CHS.

10. April 30th. Maria Santos....SEPAC will put together a plan in place in the case of no volunteers.

Close 8:55p.