

Concord Public Schools
and
Concord-Carlisle Regional School District
Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)
Thursday August 27, 2020

7:00-9:00pm

Meeting Minutes

www.concordsepac.org concordsepac@gmail.com

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83144459343?pwd=R0lFVEwya2liU1RaV1grbnJrZG9tQT09>

Meeting ID: 831 4445 9343

Passcode: 518711

1. Open Meeting at 7:03 p.m.

"In accordance with Governor Baker's executive order permitting virtual meetings during the COVID pandemic, the Concord and Concord-Carlisle Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) is conducting this meeting today, June 3, 2020 at 7:00pm eastern on the Zoom platform and in accordance with the Town's Policy Directive and Guidelines issued on April 1, 2020 and amended on May 7. I ask that all SEPAC committee members, town staff, and presenters activate their video and mute their microphone unless they have something to say or are participating in committee dialogue. All committee votes will be taken via roll call. We will start with an attendance roll call. I will announce your name, please reply. For members of the public, please unmute yourself when I've opened the meeting to public comment."

2. Approval of minutes from 6/3/2020 Board Meeting: Shaina Brito moved to approve the minutes, Carol Yelle seconded the motion.

3. Open Board positions

- a. Events Chair - Shaina Brito nominated Tracey Marano as events co-chair.
Carol Yelle seconded the motion.

4. Board positions that are filled temporarily

- Co-President
- Technology Chair
- Publicity Chair

5. Special Education Parents School Re-opening Meeting

- Parents of Students on IEPs have been invited to a webinar on 9/2 3-4 p.m.
- Please, submit questions for the webinar via the google doc created by Carol.
- All will be asked to please, refrain from asking specifics about specific children

6. Plan for 2020-2021 Events (workshops and parent listening sessions)

7. Review 2020-2021 Board Meeting Schedule. All meetings will take place at 7:00pm and will be virtual:

- a. ○ 8/27/2020
- b. ○ 9/24/2020
- c. ○ 11/19/2020
- d. ○ 1/28/2021
- e. ○ 2/25/2021

- f. ○ 3/25/2021
 - g. ○ 4/29/2021
 - h. ○ 6/10/2021
8. Propose Fall Board Workshop
- a. Let's talk as a team about what our priorities are and how we can accomplish these goals.
 - b. Let's call it a SEPAC community meeting.
 - c. Invite other parents whose children have IEPs
9. Update on Federation for Children with Special Needs SEPAC Summer School
- SEPACs from all over the state come together to learn from each other.
 - Shaina: She learned about collecting and sharing data within the district. She learned about how to share personal stories without referencing specific information about individuals.
 - Shaina: Reading, MA SEPAC doesn't hold specific board positions. Various members take on various tasks (as seen on a google doc) as time allows.
 - Becky: Family Engagement night. She learned about how to get others involved. She said to "look for others who are not like you."
 - We can make the links available:
[hps://www.youtube.com/c/fcsnvideos/playlists](https://www.youtube.com/c/fcsnvideos/playlists)
10. Chair updates
- Co-Presidents
 - i. School Committee/District response to waiver inquiry (see attached correspondence from Ruth Grube)
 - 1. Comments about this will be in the forum coming up on 9/3/20
 - 2. Individual families need to express their concerns.
 - ii. DESE - Tiered Focused Monitoring
 - 1. This is an audit of Special Education programs that happen every year. Amy Paulin will supervise the review.
 - 2. CC district was scheduled for last school year, but it was postponed until 2020-2021.
 - 3. This audit will include a parent survey and orientation.
 - iii. School Committee Attendance (board sign-ups)
 - 1. We would like the board members to share the responsibility of attending school committee meetings. We'll send around a sign-up genius so everyone can take a turn.
 - 2. We want one board member to attend each meeting.

- iv. District approved request to fund MassPAC Plus membership with the Federation for Children with Special Needs. The membership allows us to host and attend workshops as SEPAC members.
 - o Technology (and communications)- Becky
 - i. New website- Concordsepac.org Becky updated it over the summer. Hopefully there will be a launch soon, aer everyone has had a chance to look at it. We can launch it via Facebook, the Mosquito, etc. Initial Newsletter- not yet started. Theme could be family engagement. So many things have changed since we last had a newsletter. Are people experiencing an information overload?
 - ii. Request district funding for website renewal (October - \$99 +tax Wordpress Premium, \$320 Business membership, \$18 domain registration)
 - iii. NL and website translation/accessibility.
 - 1. Becky would like to sign up for the business membership so she can offer translation for non-English speakers. Shaina and Carol can put the request forward to Ruth and link the request to the district goals. The impact of this request is huge.
 - 2. Becky wants to find out how the district translates for non-English speakers within the district.
 - 3. Becky wants to reach out to the Metco director, Andrew, so we can connect with Metco families who have students with IEPs. Let's bring this to our board meeting workshop.
 - o Membership- Sarah Bettencourt
 - i. Liaison updates - Lists of liaisons are on the "our schools" tab on the Concord School website. <https://concordsepac.org/district-information/>
 - 1. Joanne and Tali are stepping down. Tracey Marano would like to step up as the middle school liaison.
 - 2. For the next SEPAC meeting we can review the bylaws.
 - ii. Engagement - Carol and Shaina will connect with principals to ask for SEPAC air time at back-to-school night.
 - o Publicity- Helen
 - i. Website launch - will happen via Facebook and include a story in the Mosquito. Becky would like others to contribute things to the FB page. Becky will add all board members as contributors.
 - o Secretary - no news
11. Public comments -none
12. Close Meeting at 8:49 p.m.

Attendance:

Shaina Brito, Co-President

Carol Yelle, Co-President

Rebecca Robichaud, Technology and Communication Chair

Helen Mckinlay, Publicity Chair

Sarah Bettencourt, Membership Chair

Sarah Nichol, Secretary

Niressa Marn, parent in Carlisle

Amanda Comperchio, Carlisle School Committee rep

Tracey Marano, Events Co-Chair

Jill Beguhn, parent

Tom Goddard, Carlisle Town rep who hosted the meeting, was on at the beginning and then left the meeting.

Attachment of correspondence from Ruth Grube to Carol Yelle:

The language that was used on the IEP's was common for most districts because IEPs were due during the first few months and we had "forgiveness" on timelines from the U.S. Department of Education. There was not quick guidance from the DESE and we had to ensure that students' needs were being cared for. We were one of the first districts that held annual meetings in March and throughout the closure and that was so valuable as we re-enter school.

After April 27th (actually May 4th), the language should have been removed from the N1's on the IEP's for any meetings held after that. Unfortunately, a teacher forgot to remove the language and we had to issue a letter of assurance to parents who it impacted.

It was not a community issue, it was an individual issue that related to a minimal amount of parents. SpedWatch and Ellen Chambers' were doing their jobs if it was brought to their attention but there not a concern from our district. I have not heard from any parents who were concerned about the language, and if SEPAC heard from them I would have liked it if you reached out so I could quell their concerns. As you know, the more that parents wait for their concerns to be heard, the more anxious they may become. It was a surprise when your letter was read at the school committee requesting an investigation when we did not have an opportunity to talk. We should continue to work as collaboratively with the common goals of supporting children and look forward to the forum.

Laurie and I are coordinating our schedules and will be back to you for a date to chat with parents very soon. Be well, Ruthie