

Minutes of the Needham Special Education Parents Advisory Council
Meeting of January 12, 2009
Broadmeadow Elementary School
Needham, MA 02492

I. Announcements and Action Items – Tee Stock, Co-Chair Needham SEPAC

- Resource materials from the Massachusetts Association of Parent Advisory Councils (masspac) are passed around for review. Needham SEPAC is a member of masspac. Individuals are also welcome to join. Go to the website at masspac.org for information.
- The side table has a sign-in sheet, announcements and materials, including a sign up sheet for anyone interested (and eligible) to participate in a genetic study.
- Peter O'Neill has stepped down as secretary. Tee thanks Peter for his hard work and service. De Springer and Kori Rogers have offered to fill in as co-secretaries to finish out the term through June. Tee asks for a hand vote to approve this action. Item passes.
- Tee notes that the Needham SEPAC has two School Committee representatives, Laura Flueckiger and Connie Barr. She introduces Laura who is in attendance.
- All parents are invited to meet the Elementary Special Education Director finalists on Thursday, January 22, and Wednesday, January 28 from 7:00 to 8:00 pm in the Media Center here at Broadmeadow.
- The Special Education Administrators made a [presentation](#) to the School Committee, which is deliberating the 2010 budget. SPED budget requests include:

2.0 FTE to expand ELC II at Hillside
Increase Preschool Instructional Aide (.2 FTE)
Increase SLC Instructional Aide (.5 FTE)
- Tee invites Sandy Cisternelli to talk about the upcoming camp open house. Sandy announces that on February 9, 2009 at 7:00 pm local camps and organizations will join us at the Broadmeadow Performance Center for a **Local Activities and Camps Open House**. Based on feedback from last year's highly successful event, we have invited more organizations with year-round activities. Last year we had representatives from 20 organizations and 100 parents who participated. Here is an [updated list of participants](#) and a [flyer](#) you can distribute.
- On March 9, Bonnie Singer, Ph.D., CCC President/CEO, Architects for Learning will join us to present **Strategies for Improving Written Expression**. Please note that this event will be held in the Pollard School Auditorium from 7:30-9:30 p.m.

- The SEPEC Board members met with the SPED Administrators on January 6. A few highlights from the meeting include:

We asked what steps are being taken to improve communication. Service providers were asked to send letters introducing themselves to parents at the beginning of the school year. This happened at some schools, but not all schools.

We discussed the need for more goal-specific feedback on progress reports. Progress reports will be out in February and should be specific to the goals outlined in the IEP, not just general comments, such as “Johnny is doing well.”

We noted that there has been some concern that new aides are not adequately trained. Currently, new aides receive one full day of training immediately before the start of the school year.

- Thanks to Maria for bringing the snacks.

II. Presentation: *Access to the General Curriculum: How to use the IEP as a Tool to Ensure Effective Progress* - Adam R. Goldberg, M.Ed., Educational Consultant, Chief Executive Officer of The Goldberg Center for Educational Planning™

Peter O’Neil introduces the program and speakers. Each year, we host a presentation on how to make the IEP a useful document. This year’s speakers, Adam Goldberg and his colleague Joshua Doyle, offer their perspective on the big picture—the 90% that will make your IEP process successful—rather than on the minutiae of the document. The general outline of the presentation follows:

- I. Introductions
- II. Collaboration versus Contention
- III. Pitfalls
- IV. Payoffs
- V. The Challenge: Write Your Own Plan
- VI. Q & A

[Complete presentation](#)

Respectfully Submitted by
Kori Rogers