

9-13-10 September SEPAC meeting, 'What's New in Special Education'

Meeting called to order by Tee Stock at approximately 7:30pm.

40+ people in attendance.

Introductions of SEPAC School Parent Liaisons, NPS representation: Mary Lammi, Cathy Heller, Will Verbits, Kelly Hurley, and school committee member, Joe Barnes.

Announcements including: A parent Support Group is forming with psychologist Dena Ray; see De Springer for further information; Meeting September 23 in Dedham called 'Let's get Organized' regarding paperwork parents receive in the Special Education Process; We need more help forming disability awareness at Mitchell, please contact Lisa Mancino or Mary Lammi for more information; consider attending a school committee meeting this year. Our presence is important- sign ups distributed. Tee invited parents to comment to school committee on the proposed bullying policy during the public comment period.

7:40: Christine Brumbach and Cathy Aikman presented parent survey results from Spring 2010. Resulting in immediate action items about social skills thinking. A formal report should be submitted at the 9/21/10 school committee meeting. Also, two nights in October and at the November 19th SEPAC meeting, follow up on survey questions will be conducted for further information.

Since conducting the survey the Second Step Social Skills at the Elementary School level has had training and implementation of training the trainer. More follow up needed regarding Community Education programming and summer education. And notation to the Metro Health survey at the High School. A large number of students felt they have no one that they can relate to.

8:15 NPS reports. Documentation on presentation may be found on the web site Needhamsepac.org.

Preschool reporting they're currently focusing on the transition to Pollard next year. Focus in the areas of social skills, resources, In-service training, second step training and parent training.

Elementary reporting their vision and partnership. Areas of interest including Professional Development including over 80 teacher's assistants and improving the transition process. They are working with Kelly Hurley, autism specialist, regarding school, home and summer programs. Hillside has a new part time special ed liaison, Chanit List. Mary is working with parents to continue building disability awareness.

Middle School reporting they're working on transition between middle schools. They are also working on improving communication. They continue to prepare students for MCAS testing; results due out in October. Teacher assistants are receiving professional

development. No new teachers this year. New staffing includes a new team chair person, Dr. Iris Miller and replacing Dr. Miller is the new psychologist, Jane Rogers. There are a couple new teachers assistants in grades 7 and 8. Currently, Mr. Verbits is focusing on hiring two reading specialist.

High School reporting there is a new High School Service model where general education has teamed up with special education. There is also a new co-teaching model with a group of 4 teachers working cohesively together (core subjects). This group works on social communication and writing support.

The High School has a mentor program called 'Insight' including 3 liaisons. Two of the liaisons are from Clearway, NY. It focus' on psychological rehabilitation. New psychologist Roberta Halloran is covering for Christy Fredrick who is currently out on maternity leave.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Minutes submitted by Margaret Gray