



Berlin/Boylston Public Schools

Special Education Parent Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: January 27, 2016

Meeting Place: Tahanto Regional Middle High School, Multipurpose Room

In attendance: Jannel Fitzpatrick, Karen Groccia, Rochelle Peret, Kerry Lavallee, Karen Molnar, Betsy Trudeau, Angela Yildiz

Meeting called to order at 8:15pm (after Rights and Responsibilities Presentation)

Membership: 98 members, 53 Yahoo! Group members. No change.

Financial: Current balance is \$1032.76. No change.
Kerry Lavallee

Communications: None of note.

PR Report: Notice for the January 27 meeting went out. Other related activities below:
Karen Groccia

PPS
Karen Molnar Karen delivered the required, one-hour annual presentation about Parents' Rights and Responsibilities. She also brought sample folders that PPS proposes to distribute to families as they enter the district. The folder contains several useful documents, including a list of all PPS staff names and contact info, the Notice of Procedural Safeguards, our SEPAC brochure, some info about the IEP Process and a guide for organizing all of the related documentation.

OLD BUSINESS

NISW Rochelle will get a template for Certificates of Participation from Lori Mickalak and send them out to all of the classrooms and groups involved.

Scholarship Karen Groccia finalized the scholarship form (including an edit to clarify that the scholarship is open to any student who received services on an IEP OR 504 Plan) and will deliver them to the guidance offices at Assabet and Tahanto. The completed scholarship applications will be sent up to Central Office.

NEW BUSINESS

Excellent Educator Awards Karen drafted the Excellent Educator flyer to call for submissions from parents and guardians. We discussed changing the word "nomination" feeling that it implied a choice and/or a winner, when in fact, anyone that is recognized gets a

certificate (in fact, some educators get MORE than one!) We confirmed the time line (Flyers out March 18th, deadline for submissions is April 15th and awards will be handed out during Teacher Appreciation Week (May 2-6th)). Karen will get the flyers approved by the Superintendent and Principals, get them reproduced and out to schools, website, Facebook, etc. Kerry will be listed on the flyer as the contact person for questions and submissions and will coordinate the presentations.

Presentation w/ West Boylston SEPAC The March 23 FCSN Presentation will be "Achieving Dreams." It's geared to students 14-22 and their parents. Karen Groccia drafted a flyer for Board (and West Boylston SEPAC) approval and confirmed the Multipurpose Room at Tahanto as the venue. Karen will contact Tahanto about the best way to get the info to families and students in this age group. We will also publicize it in all the regular outlets.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 24 at Berlin Memorial School Library, 7pm.

School Meeting Reports:

BES School Council:	Amy Gaspari reported no Special Ed issues were discussed.
BMS School Council:	No SpEd issues to report
Tahanto School Council	Maureen Norvold is our contact, and Karen got a report from her that there had not been a meeting yet for 2016. Will report to Karen if there are any relevant issues at next meeting.
Regional School Committee:	No SpEd issues to report
BMS School Committee:	No SpEd issues to report
BES School Committee:	No SpEd issues to report
Tahanto STAAGS PTO:	No SpEd issues to report
Berlin LINK:	No SpEd issues to report
Boylston PTO:	No SpEd issues to report

M/s/p to adjourn
Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm

Approved: Electronic approvals on file.

_____ Jessica Meltzer, Berlin Co-President	_____ Rochelle Peret, Boylston Co-President
_____ Karen Groccia, Vice President	_____ Kerry Lavallee, Treasurer

Submitted by:



Karen Groccia Acting Secretary