



Berlin/Boylston Public Schools

Special Education Parent Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

- Date:** March 19, 2014 7:00 PM
- Meeting Place:** Tahanto Regional Middle/High School Multi-Purpose Room
- Presentation:** "Kids with ADHD: How to Encourage Their True Potential by Carol Gignoux From Live ADHD Free
- In attendance:** Karen Groccia, Lori Michalak, Christina Stille, Rochelle Peret, Karen Molnar, Courtney Hodgdon, Sonia Johnson, Jennifer Stander, Jay Groccia, Kerry Syed, Ligia Turnquist, Laura Swackhammer, Lynn Botsaris
- Membership:** 92 members, 51 Yahoo! Group members. Karen accidentally approved a member who doesn't meet the criteria for membership due to being out of the district and not a parent. Will be removed.
- Financial:** Current balance is \$1,819.41. However, Carol G. was paid \$200 tonight so that will be deducted.
- Communications:** Upcoming Northborough SPAC meeting-3/20
Coffee Chat with Nadine Ekstrom on 3/25 at 6PM
Central MA PARCC info night 3/26 at Tahanto
- PR Report:** January Minutes sent to Karen Molnar for approval sent. Spoke to BMS' John Campbell about getting information posted. PR for March meeting went out Banner, Item, PPS Office posted, Facebook, and Paul put the information on the back of the Bobcat Tales. Karen has posted event dates on the SEPAC Facebook Group. We want to allow people to post on the Facebook group (there is a difference between members and just "liking" the page.)
- PPS** The 3/25 Coffee Chat is primarily going to be on the regionalization studies. Our grades 6-12 are regionalized, however, the 2 elementary schools are not (BES + BMS). Trying to regionalize from K-12 will help streamline and share resources. Regarding the budget – no new staff or staff cuts at this point.
- Karen Molnar**

Excellent Educator Awards Excellent Educator flyer is with Angela to reproduce.
Karen will be sending out the color flyer to the schools to get up on the website and offices. Deadline is 4/17, will present the Awards out first week in May.

FCSN
"Visions of Community 2014" Christi attended *The Federation for Children with Special Needs* conference on March 8. The 3 seminars attended were "MA Tiered Support Services" dealt heavily in progress monitoring. The "SEPAC" seminar dealt with how to make your PAC stronger, how to get one started, etc. The last seminar was titled "How to use Core Curriculum to write your IEP." She deemed it an excellent conference with lots of networking.

New Business Resource List for Website – Rochelle will start with the list of websites from Carol's presentation.
Proposing a de-escalation workshop with Nadine Ekstrom for May 28th meeting.
End-of year planning – no summer get-together as it's not well attended
Open Offices for 2014-2015 will be Vice President, Secretary, and Berlin Co-President. Christi raised concerns whether she will still be allowed to finish her term Boylston Co-President if her child is off his IEP in the near future. Bylaws state she could not run for a board position again, but do not require that she step down mid term.
An Election Committee Chair is needed.
Next year's Pie Fundraiser is a Go. Credit Card acceptance is going to be looked into.

School Meeting Reports:

BES School Council: School Improvement plan in Final draft stages. Going to be presented to the school committee in April after Nadine reviews it.

Literacy Committee: Reviewed literacy program by Pearson and will see McGraw Hill's March 27th. Literacy Plan is done, and will be reviewed on the 27th. Literacy Committee is going to continue next year to oversee implementation.

Union 60 School Committee: no SpEd issues to report

Regional School Committee: Karen M. covered the regionalization studies above.

BMS School Committee: no SpEd issues to report

BES School Committee: no SpEd issues to report

Tahanto STAAGS PTO: Nelly Sousa is the communications coordinator. Wants to reach out with all of the groups to have better communication and resource sharing. SEPAC missed the Community Support Night event due to miscommunication, would have been helpful for us to be there. Lori

mentioned that we would like to co-sponsor Tahanto's Teacher Appreciation week.

Berlin LINK: no SpEd issues to report. Christi is making inroads in working with LINK.

BUSS (Berlin United to Support our Students): no SpEd issues to report

Boylston PTO: no SpEd issues to report

Superintendent's School Council: no SpEd issues to report

M/s/p to adjourn

Meeting adjourned 9:50 pm

Approved: Electronic approvals on file.

_____ Christi Stille, Co-President

_____ Karen Groccia, Vice President

_____ Lori Michalak, Treasurer

_____ Rochelle Peret, Secretary

Submitted by:

Rochelle Peret, Secretary
