



Berlin/Boylston Public Schools

Special Education Parent Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

- Date:** April 29, 2015 7:00PM
- Meeting Place:** Tahanto Regional Middle/High School Multi-Purpose Room
- In attendance:** Karen Groccia, Christina Stille, Rochelle Peret, Karen Molnar, Lori Michalak
- Membership:** One member left Yahoo!, 91 members, 48 Yahoo! Group members.
Rochelle Peret
- Financial:** Current balance: \$1257.28. That includes the check for FCSN for the March presentation that has not yet cleared; however, the balance does not include Excellent Educator Award expenses.
Lori Michalak
- Communications:** We received an idea for a potential program for next year entitled "*Getting Organized for your IEP Meeting*" offered by Jennifer Bolduc of Special Organizer.com. We definitely want to look into this one.
- PR Report:** We need to determine why neither the BES PTO's *Pawprints* nor Tahanto PTO's emails are publishing our meeting notices. Are the notices perhaps just falling through the cracks? Tonight's meeting was listed in the *Banner* and on Facebook.
Karen Groccia
- PPS:** Nothing really special-ed related. Berlin Memorial School right now has the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) reviewing its' strengths and weaknesses as part of a randomly-selected review.
Karen Molnar
- Principal Search:** Met the two candidates for principal of BES. They have been put forward and the parent representatives and the staff have met them. School committee members, Nadine Ekstrom, and Karen Molnar are going on a site visit to see the candidates in their home environment. The teachers had a focus group and had the opportunity to ask the candidates questions.
Angela Allred & Karen Molnar
- Excellent Educator Awards:** A total of 19 nominations were received. Ten from BMS, four from Tahanto, and 5 from BES. We think that having the PPS Office directly mail all of the families of children with IEPs definitely helped increase the number of submissions. Next year we need to remember to send it to the families of children under 504 Plans; however, the notices were also widely distributed elsewhere. BMS' Awards will be presented during their teacher appreciation week. BES' Awards will be presented during the day of the Teacher Appreciation lunch on May 5. Tahanto's Awards will be distributed during their staff meeting. Lori will contact Diane Tucceri on date.
Lori Michalak

Executive Board Positions All of the SEPAC executive board positions are available: Berlin Co-President, Boylston Co- President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. We discussed ideas about how to gain more interest in having people consider being on the E-board. Discussed posting on our Facebook group or sending out e-reminders through our Yahoo! Group.

Old Business: Looking for an update on whether scholarships have been coming in. Karen Molnar will check with Janet Ament, Administrative Assistant to Director of PPS. Karen Groccia will put out a reminder on Facebook and through the Yahoo! Group.

Whether the Pie Fundraiser is a go or not will be voted on next month. We would need to know when Parent-Teacher conferences are to get the early discount offered if we sign up in June.

School Meeting Reports:

BES School Council: Big focus was on school improvement plan. Carol Costello came in to set a new broader curriculum goal. They are revising the BES handbook.

Regional School Committee: Superintendent updated the public of school attending children as of Jan 1

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: There are 2 Kindergarten classes in BMS in fall.

Boylston PTO: No SpEd issues to report

M/s/p to adjourn
Meeting adjourned 9:17pm

Approved: Electronic approvals on file.

_____ Christi Stille, Co-President

_____ Karen Groccia, Vice President

_____ Lori Michalak, Treasurer

_____ Rochelle Peret, Secretary

Submitted by:

Rochelle Peret, Secretary