



Berlin/Boylston Public Schools

Special Education Parent Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: May 25, 2016

Meeting Place: Berlin Memorial School Library

In attendance: Karen Groccia, Rochelle Peret, Jessica Meltzer, Kerry Lavallee, Jannel Fitzpatrick, Karen Molnar

Membership: 98 members, 54 Yahoo! Group members.

Financial: Current balance is \$850.63.
Kerry Lavallee

Communications: Fundraising opportunity of selling bed sheets email, further info below under fundraising. KidConnect App – appropriate for a BCBA. ADHD Book Launch from Carol Gignoux-possibly look into whether she will present for us next year.

PR Report: Notices for tonight’s meeting didn’t go out, ended up in Draft and didn’t send until late, meeting was posted on Facebook in various locations.
Karen Groccia

PPS
Karen Molnar

A new Vice Principal has been chosen for Tahanto. Jessica Meltzer helped with the School Psychologist interviews at Tahanto, and a new one has been chosen. Question arose about how 504’s get distributed to teachers. Jannel explained that she sends out an email when a 504 is updated to all of the student’s teachers, and she also has hard copies of it. Para Substitute Form – Some subs only have a bachelor’s degree, but no teaching experience. Jannel said that the new form sent before the IEP meeting that says about “any info for the sub?”

OLD BUSINESS

Web Access Karen set up a Skype account for us. Name is BBRSD.SEPAC. We’ll put out a notice that you’ll have to RSVP ahead of time, and we’ll do a group call. Issue is with Tahanto’s internet; test it at next month’s meeting at Tahanto.

NEW BUSINESS

Next Year Presentations Pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with Streptococcal infections (*PANDAS*) describes a hypothesis. Behaviors can present as autistic spectrum, etc. Kim DiVecchio Turgeon is willing to present on PANDAS, preferably in October.

Mollee Langelier offered to present during the winter months. Could focus on social skills or challenges and strategies with auditory processing/hearing in classroom setting.

A teacher had requested a Brain Gym presentation, Betsy Trudeau and Linda Checola have presented it before and we have received a letter from them saying they would be willing to present again.

Future Fundraisers

We want to run a less time-intensive fundraiser than selling Lyman pies this year; perhaps go back to it next year? We received an email regarding selling bedsheets – they’d sell for \$45 per set, profit \$12.50 each. If we respond by June 1st we can receive a free sample, worth checking out sample to determine quality, etc. Other ideas include selling frozen cookie dough, T-Shirts (however LINK sells these for their school so BMS wouldn’t participate). Also, places such as Pizzeria Uno’s, Bertuccis, Papa Ginos, Friendly’s, and Buffalo Wild Wings all do flyer fundraiser where if patrons come in with a flyer a certain percentage of their purchases are donated to organizations. We also want to contact Whole Foods as they do a fundraiser where 5% of the total sales get donated to an organization– but probably a very popular fundraiser – maybe contact Whole Foods to get on their waiting list for when the Shrewsbury location is opened?

Scholarship Application

Scholarship Applications were reviewed and one was chosen. The \$500 scholarship will be awarded at graduation; name will be released following receipt.

School Meeting Reports:

BES School Council:

No SpEd issues to report

BMS School Council:

No SpEd issues to report

Regional School Committee:

Middle School and High School Handbooks were updated – one change made would create a Saturday School from 8-11AM in lieu of missing class for suspensions. Diane Tucceri surveyed other MA principals and many have implemented this, which still hold students accountable but they won’t miss out on class time. Other districts have seen a decrease in offenses since enacting Saturday School, where they would be required to do academic work.

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 9:02 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:

Rochelle B. Peret

Rochelle Peret, Acting Secretary