



Berlin/Boylston Public Schools
Special Education Parent Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: September 17, 2014 7:26PM

Meeting Place: Tahanto Regional Middle/High School Multi-Purpose Room

In attendance: Karen Groccia, Christina Stille, Rochelle Peret, Lori Michalak, Karen Molnar, Kathy Follett, Carla Mason, Diane Tucceri, Deanna King, Melissa Sommer, Donna LoConte, Paul Goodhind, Kristine Reed, Jennifer Rickard, Hilary Johnston, Jannel Fitzpatrick, Elizabeth Trudeau

Meet & Greet: Introductions were made and meeting proceeded in Question and Answer format. Highlights included:

- Christi mentioned that BBRSD is good at being “ahead of the curve” using “Tiered Interventions.” Identifying kids early before they enter the Special Education process is especially good for kids “on the cusp” that fall behind without Special Education yet tend to “test out” when they receive services. Karen Molnar said that that was a big focus for this year.
- Carol Costello, Curriculum Coordinator identified several new initiatives this year:
 - New focus on the “Reading Wonders” program,
 - New preschool program starting,
 - STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) initiative. They have been working with a team at WPI to bring more STEM opportunities into the school, starting up a STEM Advisory Board,
 - The Garden Club is growing, with community assistance, and they were able to have a salad bar at Tahanto last year using the school’s own garden-fresh veggies,
 - Literacy program ongoing,
 - Global Studies committee – opportunity to graduate with a global distinction listed on diploma, perhaps through global travel opportunities, learning opportunities, etc. Looking into what current courses actually fit those initiatives,
 - Lots of focus on technology – Reading Wonders, and other technology and updating infrastructure, and;

- Youth Risk Behavior Survey indicated that mental health to be a risk/stressor which will drive targeted programs, and try to team it up with a Community Support Night.

8:05 General Meeting

Membership: No change, 92 members, 50 Yahoo! Group members.
Rochelle Peret

Election Results: Berlin Co-President – vacant for now.
Vice-President – Karen Groccia nominated and re-elected.
Secretary – Rochelle Peret nominated and re-elected.

Financial: Current balance as of 9/16/14 is \$929.85 plus interest.

Communications: Upcoming event: Transition Workshop on 9/20 at Holy Cross. Posted on the SEPAC Website.
Fundraiser Company contacted us, we declined their help.
Pre-K to Grade 2 Literacy Night by Sally Grimes, November 6 at Tahanto.

PR Report: Draft Upcoming Event Schedule and Committee Assignments passed around, and Business Cards given to each board member. Karen found a Press clip on Scholarships but there was no press on the Excellent Educator Awards this year. Parent Survey results from IEP meetings have been posted online. All meetings are entered on the District Calendar. September PR went out to cable, schools, paper, towns, Facebook.
Karen Groccia Karen spoke at the BMS Open House. She has contacted Janet Cathcart and Jill Mollica, past SEPAC presidents, for an e-copy of the SEPAC Bylaws. All Meeting Dates are on our yahoo! calendar.

NISW: Angela Allred is willing to do the “behind the scenes” work. We’re looking for someone to go in front of the teacher’s and present the NISW Theme. Lori will contact various Tahanto groups to keep informed as Tahanto takes the lead on NISW in their school. There are already components on NISW throughout the school year. The NISW theme this year is “One School Community”. We may use it, but we may choose a topic that dovetails with activities already in the curriculum plans for late November/early December.

PPS Basketball Buddies, “A unified Basketball program pairing special athletes with
Karen Molnar typical peers in a non-competitive yet structured environment”, begins on October 4th, and is sponsored by the Boylston Parks & Recreation Department.

OLD BUSINESS We did not need to order brochures and we received business cards

NEW BUSINESS Sherree Lenkarski, School Psychologist at Concord Public Schools has been approved for a November ADHD/Anxiety presentation.
Our 2014-2015 calendar is still in draft form – we will distribute the updated calendar with the pies during pickup.

School Meeting Reports:

BES School Council: No SpEd issues to report

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: Yearbook Ad consideration, ¼ page ad is \$50. Deadline is Nov. 1

Berlin LINK: Has been advertising for SEPAC representative

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 9:33 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