



Berlin/Boylston Public Schools

Special Education Parent Advisory Council

SEPAC General Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

Tahanto Regional Middle/High School Multi-Purpose Room

7:00 Workshop: Ask The Experts presented by Berlin-Boylston District Professionals

8:15-10pm: Business Meeting:

Minutes from March meeting approved.

Membership-Rochelle Peret, 94 members, 58 yahoo group members

Financial Report-Kerry Lavallee, \$883.29, paid \$150 towards our part of last month's presentation, and some materials needed to be purchased for exc. Educator awards.

Communications- spammy emails, Betsy T. in new business below.

Public Relations-Karen Groccia, paper fliers went out to BES before remembering it was a mailing last year. Next year it's in the calendar as a mailing and not flyers. PR for ask experts went into papers, Facebook, schools, communities, and was in Banner twice.

Pupil Personnel Services-Karen Molnar, Jake Milano's replacement interviews next week. Assistant principal search is in progress. Karen will be going on the site visits.

Old Business

Amazon Smile – Non-Profit Status – we're not a nonprofit, we're a subcommittee of the school committee. Could create a friends of SEPAC but costs \$1K. Consensus was that it's not worth the money we would generate.

Google Hangouts vs. Skype for meetings, it works if a web signal in room (google hangouts). Both have limits in numbers of people who can call in. We will have to test it to see if we can get a solid enough connection to make it work. The tentative plan is to test it out in June from Tahanto. People will have to RSVP prior.

Excellent Educator – very poor response from BMS with zero nominations and one parent complaint. BES had good response but it didn't appear that all kids were given the forms to bring home. Maybe give to sped staff to send home with the appropriate kids. Copies of letters for principals and school committees. Folders for the teachers at BES and Tahanto are ready to go. 22 recipients total with 25 total nominations. School committee should be told who got multiple nominations. Rochelle will do BES and Jess will do Tahanto.

New Business

Scholarship – Application forms are out and due back May 13. Asking school (Jannel Fitzpatrick and Janet Ament) to check in with kids to see if they've applied.

Parent-to-Parent Support Group – Christi will figure out how she wants to organize it over the summer. Probably do once a month and alternate evening/day. Drop in thing. Idea is to give support and district resources to families. 19 Carter for Berlin. Needs location in Boylston.

OT & Psychologist Presentation Offerings: - Betsy Trudeau and Linda Checola want to know if we'd be interested in presentation on one of these topics. These are presentations they give to the staff.

- Assistive Technology supports used in the classroom - Betsy
- Zones of Regulation-discussion of the ZONES program and use of sensory strategies – This and next seem to go together and both Linda and Betsy would present.
- Brain Gym strategies in support of self regulation

<http://www.sepac-berlin-boylston.org>



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Angela Allred, parent attendee provided the following feedback: Liked hearing about bringing in outside experts in for the teachers to get information about topics. Could SEPAC bring in experts to teach the teachers about specific topics? A possible topic she mentioned was executive function/development. Maybe SEPAC could send a survey out to the staff asking what topics they would find of value and help find quality speakers on those subjects.

Karen M. explained that professional development is pretty well planned out by the administration and that it is chosen primarily based on what's required by state or curriculum changes in the district. Professional development is done via lecture, reading, and online.

The group consensus was that we'd like to do another 'Meet the Experts' early in the next school year, perhaps for the September meeting. We had great staff turn out and the information they have to share with parents is fantastic. Maybe we would be able to have better parent turnout in the fall before sports and other activities ramp up.

School Meeting Reports

BES School Council - none

BES PTO - none

LINK - none

Boylston/Regional School Committee - none

Tahanto PTO - none

M/s/p to adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm

Approved: Electronic approvals on file.

_____ Jessica Meltzer, Berlin Co-President

_____ Rochelle Peret, Boylston Co-President

_____ Karen Groccia, Vice President

_____ Kerry Lavalley, Treasurer

Submitted by:

Jessica Meltzer, Acting Secretary