



Berlin/Boylston Public Schools
Special Education Parent Advisory Council

2009-2010 Year End Annual Report

August 31, 2010

Dear School Committee Members,

The Berlin-Boylston SEPAC will soon be starting up with the new school year. We would like to share our activities with you here in a formal summary of the school year 2009-10. The past year has once again been a successful one!

Our officer slate is as follows:

Berlin Co-President : Jill Mollica reelected (2 yr. term)

Boylston Co-President: Christi Stille (term expires 2010)

Vice-President: Karen Groccia elected (1 yr. term)

Secretary: Angela Germain elected (1 yr. term)

Treasurer: Maureen Norvold reelected (2 yr. term)

We were happy to participate in several community events this year. We attended the Tahanto Info Night and gained several members from this event. We also participated in Berlin's Olde Home Day in June to sell ice cream sandwiches and freeze pops.

We held a very successful Lyman Orchards Pie Fundraiser in the Fall! We made over \$1000 that goes directly into our scholarship fund. Casey Phillips of Boylston was this year's recipient of the \$300 scholarship.

SEPAC members continue to serve on each school's council and attend School Committee Meetings. We appreciate the School Building Committee's presentations on the new Tahanto building. We hope our written input was helpful in the design of a new middle/high school that will serve all students, teachers and community members, regardless of their special needs.

SEPAC representatives presented information at Open Houses at the elementary schools, Kindergarten Orientations, and Preschool Info Night to introduce ourselves and to inform parents about our role in the district.

Our guest speakers this year included:

Lance Mason from the Autism and Law Enforcement Coalition

Federation of Children with Special Needs presented "An IEP for your Child"

Judy Vaillancourt presented the Annual Parent's Rights and Responsibilities.

Our membership remains stable at 72 members (26 Berlin, 39 Boylston, 7 other)

SEPAC leadership also had the opportunity to attend several state-wide conferences on PAC issues. Christi Stille attended the MassPac Leadership Workshop in Foxboro

The Groton-Dunstable Pac hosted a networking dinner with area PACs.

SEPAC leadership attended a Resource Sharing with the Clinton PAC.

Excellent Educator Awards have become an annual occurrence for SEPAC. We were so pleased to honor 11 teachers and staff who have significantly impacted the education of our children. 8 from Boylston Elementary and 3 from Berlin Memorial received a certificate from SEPAC and an anonymous letter from the parent who nominated them. The award was presented by the SEPAC Co-Presidents in a school ceremony. The award is also given to the administration to place into their permanent records and a press release announcing the recipients is distributed to the local newspapers.

SEPAC has established a Lending Library at Tahanto for parents and students to take out books that our organization has acquired over the years. We hope this will serve as a good resource to the community for issues surrounding special education. A huge thank you goes out to the National Honor Society at Tahanto for helping this project work!

National Inclusive Schools Week is an opportunity for the entire country to celebrate children with disabilities in our schools. Berlin-Boylston participated for the first time in December with a poster contest for the elementary students and a viewing of Fat City by Richard Lavoie for parents.

SEPAC's goals for 2010-11:

1. Revamp and improve SEPAC website!
2. Continue to expand National Inclusive Schools Week events
3. Assist PPS director and other admin with professional development for regular education teachers on children with special needs
4. Continue Excellent Educator Awards and Senior Scholarship recipient
5. Advertise Lending Library to parents and high school students
6. Assist PPS director with development of student observation policy
7. Continue to add members and increase participation

SEPAC's board would like to sincerely thank the Berlin-Boylston School Committee, the school administration and especially Judith Vaillancourt for their continued support of our activities. It is gratifying as a parent to know that your voice is listened to and your opinion is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Christina Stille

Jill Mollica

Karen Groccia

Angela Germain

Maureen Norvold

