

Concord Public Schools
and
Concord-Carlisle Regional School District
Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) Minutes
Thursday March 25, 2021
9:30am

www.concordsepac.org concordsepac@gmail.com

Concord -Carlisle SEPAC is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

<https://bostonu.zoom.us/j/94398214928?pwd=SngyaUQrTnJDVFBIZ1lxRjZKNll1QT09>

Meeting ID: 943 9821 4928

Passcode: 808777

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

Join by Skype for Business

<https://bostonu.zoom.us/j/94398214928>

1. Open Meeting and Attendance (5min)

- “In accordance with Governor Baker’s executive order permitting virtual meetings during the COVID pandemic, the Concord and Concord-Carlisle Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) is conducting this meeting today, March 25, 2021 at 9:30am eastern on the Zoom platform and in accordance with the Town’s Policy Directive and Guidelines issued on April 1, 2020 and amended on May 7. I ask that all SEPAC committee members, town staff, and presenters activate their video and mute their microphone unless they have something to say or are participating in committee dialogue. All committee votes will be taken via roll call. We will start with an attendance roll call. I will announce your name, please reply. For members of the public, please unmute yourself when I’ve opened the meeting to public comment.”
- Board Roll call

2. Vote to approve February 25, 2021 meeting minutes (5min), approved unanimously

3. Committee/Liaison Updates (20 min)

- Appreciation Awards Committee: The award nominations open in March and close on April 3rd. Recognitions will be notified on April 5th. We’ll find out next week if we can do it in person. There will be 2 students speaking about their award recipients. We want to give them something they can use every day: a lunch cooler on which is printed “You Make a Difference.” Kelli has been co-organizing the event. 26 nominations have come in already. Families are encouraged and allowed to nominate one staff member per child.
- CMSBC Meeting with SEPAC 3/22/21: There will be a follow up meeting in April. There will be moveable walls and flex-space. If we go into a lock-down situation, how are these spaces equipped to safety? There are a lot of glass walls, and we need to think about safety.
- Predictability and consistency is important for some SPED students. If the room configurations are changed, this might be difficult for the students. There may

need to be a procedure to notify the students of any upcoming structural changes. These students will need patience and support if they face challenges with the space disruption.

- All-school meetings will be happening in the gym, which has difficult acoustics. This venue is not possible for some SPED students with sensory processing issues.
- There needs to be a user expert on the ground that can give input as the building process happens. We need someone on the building committee who is aware of the needs of SPED students.
- What type of explicit instructions are the regular students getting that helps them understand that diversity of students is important? If we want to integrate learners, we need to have a conversation with the students and educators. The model isn't such that the neurotypical learners are the models and the others are trying to be like them.
- There is a branch program at the Allcott school that has a restraint procedure. Could we utilize the safe, calming spaces. If we are using seclusion and restraint as a tool in the tool box, we are missing the idea that students' needs aren't being met.
- PTG Co-Presidents Meetings: Willard had an event that was accessible to all students, and we thanked them for this.
- SC Meetings: We want to make sure that neurodiversity is included in the discussion about diversity, equity and inclusion.
- The district is planning a forum on 4/6 at 7 p.m. where the community can give input about what they want to see in a director of diversity, equity and inclusion. This is a listening session. Is this role focused on racial diversity or is it open to neurodiversity and diversity of ability? The needs of the community will be better understood after this listening community meeting. The community can give this input at the forum.
- If we are talking about inclusion, we're talking about everyone, including a variety of learners. True inclusion includes all issues, not just racism and ableism. Microaggressions happen. Can we report these microaggressions to someone without having the report come back to hurt the child? It is hard to be in a vulnerable position as a parent/caregiver.
- Can we teach all students about different learning styles so that SPED students aren't targeted? We need to set the stage for all students so that when a student comes through with different needs, we are ready for them and they don't have to be the guinea pig.
- It is important that the teachers, staff members and students receive training regarding inclusion.

4. Chair updates

- Co-President (10 min)
 - i. SEPAC/TFM meeting 3/23/21 This is a review that takes place every three years by DESE and looks at compliance regarding special education.
 - ii. Meetings with Ruth Grube- Scheduled 3/29/21 are there any topics we should take to this meeting?
 - iii. Year end report to SC- Helen McKinlay will help Shaina with this.

- iv. 2021-22 board
 1. Recorded duties for each role: Anyone who is finishing their role, please make a record of what it is that you do.
 2. We are looking for new board members if you would like to join in.
 - Events (10min): Tracey Marano
 - i. Tues 4/6 7-9, there will be a presentation about the IEP process and what it looks like. Will this be recorded? No, they have recordings of other meetings on their website.
 - ii. Coffee / Listening session. Tracey is planning a coffee on a Tues., maybe 4/13, with chairs spaced out.
 - iii. Spring events: We're hoping to get a dyslexia speaker for April.
 - Publicity (5min), Helen McKinlay See the reports about the parent appreciation awards and events.
 - Technology (5min) Becky Robichaud is still updating the Facebook page. Thanks to those who have been forwarding info to post. The HS is doing a radio play of the Twilight Zone. They have hired interpreters and someone to do closed captioning. The show is April 8th, 9th & 10th. It can be found on IQH online.
 - Membership (5min), Sarah Bettencourt. There is a new branch liaison at Allcott. It would be nice to have a Metco liaison for the SEPAC.
 - Secretary (5 min), Sarah Nichol For the 4/29 Board meeting at 7 pm, Becky Robichaud will take notes until Sarah can get there at 7:30.
5. Public comments
Ruth Grube: We're hiring a teacher to work with the transitions between the grades:
Michelle Saravara She'll be in each school one day a week. She starts April 5th.
 6. Close Meeting at 10:40 am

Upcoming Meetings:

- 4/29/2021 (Board Meeting) 7 pm
- 6/10/2021 (Board Meeting) 9:30am

Attendance:

Eva Mostoufi, school committee member
Court Booth, school committee member
Alexa Anderson, school committee member
Sarah Bettencourt, membership chair
Becky Robichaud, technology chair
Helen McKinlay, publicity chair
Sarah Nichol, secretary
Shaina Brito, president
Tracey Marano,
Bryn Hilts, liaison from preschool
Natalia S, parent
Kelli O'Donnell, guest
Anna, parent

Karen Monet, parent
Jen Movitz, guest

Minutes submitted by Sarah Nichol