



Berlin/Boylston Public Schools Special Education Parent Advisory Council

2010-2011 Year End Report

September 27, 2011

Dear School Committee Members,

The Berlin-Boylston SEPAC has started up the new school year and has another full year of events planned. We would like to share our activities with you here in a formal summary of the past school year 2010-11. This past year has once again been a successful one.

Our officer slate was as follows:

Berlin Co-President :	Jill Mollica (2 yr. term expires 2011)
Boylston Co-President:	Christi Stille (2 yr. term expires 2012)
Vice-President:	Karen Groccia (1 yr. term)
Secretary:	Angela Allred (1 yr. term)
Treasurer:	Lori Michalak (2 yr. term)

SEPAC members continue to serve on each school's council and attend School Committee Meetings. We also had members participate in the district Wellness Committee, Boylston PTO and Berlin LINK and Boylston School Improvement Council organizations.

Jill Mollica participated in a MassPac Leadership conference in October and had the opportunity to meet with other SEPAC's from around the state. It was a valuable day to exchange ideas and discuss issues common to all PAC's.

SEPAC once again sent representatives who 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.

SEPAC hosted a very successful National Inclusive Schools week in December. We sponsored a poster contest for students in grades K-3 and an essay contest for students in grades 4-6. Students submitted 13 entries from Boylston Elementary and 6 from Berlin Memorial. All students received Certificates of Participation in school assembly ceremonies and had their pictures in the local newspapers! The students work was then donated to the central office where they remain on display.

We had several guest speakers throughout the year come and speak regarding various educational topics. Our guest speakers this year included:

Paula Fiorillo, Curriculum Director who spoke to us in October regarding curriculum development for the districts Federation of Children with Special Needs presented "Understanding My Child's Learning Style" in March.

Carla Binswanger presented "Chaos to Calm: Organizing You Child's Special Education Paperwork", also in March

Judy Vaillancourt presented the Annual Parent's Rights and Responsibilities in February

Our membership grew to 79 members by the end of the year.

Excellent Educator Awards have become an annual event for SEPAC. We were so pleased to honor 17 teachers and staff who have significantly impacted the education of our children with the award; 7 from Boylston Elementary and 10 from Berlin Memorial received a certificate from SEPAC and an anonymous letter from the parent(s) who nominated them. The awards were presented by the SEPAC Officers in a school ceremony and all teachers names were published in a press release to local newspapers. A copy of the award was also given to the administration to place into their permanent records and a press release.

SEPAC also once again awarded a graduating senior a Scholarship of \$300 to continue their education. Kelly Brewer of Berlin was the recipient this year.

We also hosted a well-attended summer family gathering at the AMC Bowling Lanes in Auburn in August. It was a fun event for all who attended.

SEPAC's goals for 2011-12:

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 ed 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 Allred
Lori Michalak