



Berlin/Boylston Public Schools
Special Education Parent Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

- Date:** September 25, 2013, 7:00pm
- Meeting Place:** Tahanto Regional Middle/High School Multi-Purpose Room
- In attendance:** Angela Allred, Kathy Derderian, Elizabeth Trudeau, Hilary Johnston, Linda Checola, Laura Swackhammer, Rochelle Peret, Debbie Clarke, Nadine Ekstrom, Ligia Turnquist, Carla Mason, Karen Groccia, Carol Costello, Karen Molnar, Wendy Shepad, Ben Milliner, Christi Stille, Mollee Nosek, Kristi Lombardo, John Campbell, Mary Whamond, Paula Beaulac, Lori Michalak, Maureen Norvold, Lisa O'Day
- Meet and Greet:** Introductions were made and meeting proceeded in Question and Answer format.
- Highlights included:
- Carol Costello and Nadine Ekstrom offered to discuss the new "Report Card" at a future meeting with SEPAC.
 - CPI training has begun. Nadine is a certified trainer and has already begun training staff. It is a training designed to de-escalate negative behaviors, in the school setting. Parent training may be provided. It is a 2 hour commitment.
 - AimsWEB – Nadine discussed the use of AimsWEB as a new assessment tool for grades K-3. The DESE requires three District Determined Measures. The primary contact is the new BMS Principal. The data looks at different areas of support needs and will provide a baseline for each student. Results will be shared with parents and gives teachers the ability to modify teaching styles as frequently as every two weeks. MAPS, by the company NEWA, is the assessment tool for grades 4-12.
 - MCAS scores will be out Friday or Monday next week. Christi asked how the "high needs" population fared. Karen Molnar reported we are above the state standard. Our current struggles are with Non-fiction reading and grammar. 60% scored in advance range. Nadine has communicated with Peter Doherty, 8th Grade

Tahanto English Department Head, regarding MCAS. Mr. Doherty will present to the School Committee on October 1st.

- Karen Groccia questioned the use of Smartboards and Chromebooks at BES. It was noted as new technology to the school. Paul Mara is the technical manager. Nadine is working on drafting a three year Technology Plan for the School Committee. She hopes for more computers.
- PARC Vs. MCAS. PARC is new test that is likely to replace MCAS. It is computer-based. Since the test requires students to have more computer skills, a technology teacher will be hired to help with that effort 1 day/week at the elementary school level. We currently have a Middle/High School part-time teacher.
- Maureen inquired about Tahanto's Math and Reading Labs. These are designed as "Tier 2" level teaching and are not designed for students on IEP's or advanced learners.

8:35pm General Meeting:

Membership Report: 85 members, 56 Yahoo! Group members. The two new Y!Group members have not submitted paper applications and are not added to the master list.

Financial: Current balance is \$1,451.60. \$0.18 interest accrued.
Lori Michalak

Communications: Christi received from Janet Ament: "Child Find" to be posted. Already posted in Elementary Schools.

PR Report: Scholarship reported in the Banner.

End-of-Year Gathering: Karen and Lori and families attended Leominster State Park. Due to the poor turnout, Karen suggested combining summer meetings. Re-visit at future meeting.
Karen Groccia

Website Update: Karen posted minutes and edited web. Browser issue was resolved. Karen would like to send Thank you to the student that assisted with the development of the website after we officially launch.

Lyman Pie Fundraiser: Lori attended BES Open House and received 52 pie orders. 24 pies were ordered at BMS. Lori left order forms for teachers and will follow up at BES as well as BMS. Rochelle suggested an order form on-line for ease of access. Karen posted a link on the SEPAC web page: www.sepac-berlin-boylston.org. Ligia e-mailed Tahanto the reminder. Deanna and Karen will volunteer at Tahanto on the evening of their Open House, Oct. 3rd. Ligia will contact Tahanto to reserve the space for SEPAC. Christi has the supplies and will leave them for Tahanto night. It's suggested we locate ourselves outside in order to be accessible to parents entering either of the Middle or High school entrances.

New Business: May 28th meeting: Christi suggested inviting Nadine to speak on Behavior/de-escalation techniques (CPI) during this meeting. Board voted yes.

November 20th general meeting: Christi will invite Carol Costello for a ½ hour presentation on the new "report cards". Board voted yes.

Election Results: Berlin Co-President – vacant for now.
Secretary – Rochelle Peret nominated. M/s/p to appoint Rochelle.
Vice-President – Karen Groccia nominated and re-elected.
Treasurer – Lori Michalak nominated and re-elected.

Karen will update BBRSEPAC E-MAILS to reflect new officers.

New Programs 2013-2014:

ADD Program: Christi researched Carol Gignoux ADHD expert. Cost is \$200 for 1-1.5 hour presentation, booked March 26th. M/S/P to approve \$200.
Christi
Deanna will send grant application link to Christ in order for her to apply for funding for this program.

Transition 101: Transition 101 by FCSN will be held October 23rd. It is noted Karen Molnar pays \$250 annually for SEPAC's officers to maintain membership through FCSN. We will need \$300 additionally for this presentation. m/S/P/ for \$300 to FCSN for Transition 101. Karen will send out PR by October 4th for news and web.

Lori will promote at Tahanto through Deb Clarke. Karen will prepare a flyer for websites and will post to SEPAC WEB. Karen will send PR to schools and newspapers. Elementary school principals to post on web.

School Meeting Reports:

Union 60 School Committee:

Regional School Committee: Christi presented the E.O.Y. report

Berlin Memorial School Committee:

Boylston Elementary School Committee:

Tahanto PTO:

Berlin LINK:

BUSS (Berlin United to Support our Students):

Boylston PTA:

Boylston School Council: Karen; meeting touched upon AIMSWEB and tech talk; NISW theme, new curriculum and PARC vs. MCAS.

Future Agenda Items:

- Website update – Karen
- NISW – Angela and Lori; we will incorporate the theme “giving gifts”, as used at BES (possibly at BMS as well?)
- Resource List

M/s/p to adjourn

Meeting adjourned 9:50pm

Approved:

Electronic approvals on file.

_____ Christi Stille, Co-President

_____ Karen Groccia, Vice President

_____ Lori Michalak, Treasurer

_____ Angela Allred, Secretary

Submitted by:

