Berlin/Boylston Public Schools

Special Education Parent Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Date:	December 9, 2015
Meeting Place:	Berlin Memorial School Library
In attendance:	Karen Groccia, Rochelle Peret, Jessica Meltzer, Kerry Lavallee, Christi Stille, John Campbell
Membership:	98 members, 53 Yahoo! Group members.
Financial: **Kerry Lavallee**	Current balance is $1032.76, a check for $65 has not yet been deposited by the yearbook organizer for SEPAC's advertisement.
Communications:	None of note.
PR Report: **Karen Groccia**	Notice for the December 9th meeting went out. Karen designed the yearbook advertisement, drafted the scholarship form, and business cards/flyers were discussed. We don't need any more business cards but perhaps a 2-sided 5x7 postcard might be the way to get more information out.
PPS **Karen Molnar**	Not Present

OLD BUSINESS

NISW

Boylston Elementary and Berlin Memorial Schools participated in National Inclusive Schools Week (NISW) having the students fill out gift tags showing their special gifts they bring to the school and community. These were displayed in the main hallways of both schools.

Christi Stille reports that the Tahanto Middle School's HOPE Club lead the activities during NISW. The HOPE Club's adviser Danielle Gardner explains the events for the week included a poster contest with the theme "What does inclusion look like at Tahanto?" The winners and participants can be seen in a display on the wall near the main office area. In grade 6 advisory, students learned about inclusion and filled out a "Many Hands One Community" picture of a hand. In the hand they were asked to write one word how they plan to practice inclusion in their school community. The HOPE club will be creating a display with those hands. Lastly, during lunch, all students will be asked to fill out a snowflake answering the question, "What quality makes you unique?" A display will be made with the snowflakes.

No response was sent regarding NISW from the High School.

NEW BUSINESS

Scholarship Form   The question of how many scholarships to offer this year was raised. This year the motion was put forth and approved for one $500 scholarship for a student graduating from Assabet Valley Technical High School or Tahanto Regional Middle High School student who has received Special Education or 504 services at some point in their education in Berlin or Boylston school(s). This student must be continuing their education at a university, college or vocational institution in the next academic year.

School Meeting Reports:

BES School Council:	No SpEd issues to report
BMS School Council:	No SpEd issues to report
Regional School Committee:	Tahanto's budget for 2016-17 is going to have about $300K or more in Special Education expenses, for students that have out-of-district placements, etc. School Choice numbers are down from just over 100 a couple of years ago, to just over 90 this year. We have 20 students from the district in charter schools and 10 will graduate this year.
BMS School Committee:	No SpEd issues to report
BES School Committee:	No SpEd issues to report
Tahanto STAAGS PTO:	No SpEd issues to report
Berlin LINK:	No SpEd issues to report
Boylston PTO:	No SpEd issues to report

M/s/p to adjourn
Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm

Approved: Electronic approvals on file.

_____ Jessica Meltzer, Berlin Co-President   _____ Rochelle Peret, Boylston Co-President

_____ Karen Groccia, Vice President   _____Kerry Lavallee, Treasurer

Submitted by:

Rochelle B. Peret

Rochelle Peret, Acting Secretary