



Berlin/Boylston Public Schools

Special Education Parent Advisory Council

SEPAC Meeting Minutes Wednesday, September 19, 2018 Tahanto High School, Boylston

In attendance: Jessica Meltzer, Karen Groccia, Rochelle Peret, Karen Molnar, Mary Whamond-Fortier, Linda Checola, Hilary Johnston, Jannel Fitzpatrick, Elizabeth Trudeau, Kathy Derdarian, Wendy Shepard, Karen Perry, Kerry Lavalley, Mollee Langelier, Esther Rhatigan

Meet & Greet (7:11pm)

Introductions

Items discussed:

- New Bridges program for children with more severe needs
- Chrome workstations
- Mr. Erle
- Berlin has new preschool special ed teacher – Kayla Donahue
- Berlin has new kindergarten special ed teacher – Liz McNally
- Refresh Day at Tahanto 10/4 (1/2 day of school)
 - o High school only
 - o First annual
 - o Funded through Shine Foundation
 - o Looking to do Middle School in Spring (maybe March)
 - o Suggestions were offered to have such events around exam times
- Reminder of opioid talk 9/20
- Upcoming SEPAC events:
 - o Person-Centered Planning in spring
 - o Basic Rights
 - o James Groccia's experiences with Special Olympics
 - o Molly
 - o Joint meeting with W.Boylston
- Potential informational resources
 - o AANE
 - o Transition web sites from kdadarian@bbrds.org and Matt's page too

General Meeting (7:49pm)

Discussions

- Next year's first meeting
 - o Less formal

- Less sitting
- More conversation
- Suggestion to have prizes for attracting more parents as Wachusett does
- Parent population seems to have more trouble getting out
- More behavioral talks may have draw
- Possibly start meeting earlier
 - Educators might prefer 6
 - Possibly take a poll on Facebook or elsewhere
- Places to possibly post about SEPAC and meetings
 - Tahanto's information sign
 - Ace's blog
 - PTOs
 - Berlin Old Home Day

General Meeting

Minutes - Rochelle Peret

- June minutes updated.
- What is the state of the May minutes?

Membership- Esther Rhatigan

- No current count update

Financial Report-Kerry Lavallee

- Current balance is \$474.89.
- \$150 to FCSN

Communications – Kerry Lavallee

- From Brittany re: Town Common show
 - Recording soon for October on 9/26
 - Kerry going to discuss Texas Roadhouse fundraiser

Old Business

- Election Results – Esther Rhatigan
 - Berlin Co-President - Jessica Meltzer
 - Vice President – Karen Groccia
 - Treasurer – Kerry Lavallee
 - Secretary – Esther Rhatigan
 - As Esther was not on the ballot, an appointment was necessary.
 - Motion made, seconded. With no requirement for discussion, as she had volunteered in addition to getting write-in votes, a vote was taken which made the appointment official.
- Open Houses at Berlin and Boylston and Tahanto
 - Berlin – 9/29 – 6-7:30pm
 - Boylston – 9/27 – 6-7:30pm
 - Tahanto – 10/4 – 12:30-2:30pm and 6:30-8:30pm
 - Open houses don't need the box, just the green bag. (Karen consolidated everything.)

- Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser
 - o Suggestion for future fundraisers – try to get folks to promote with paper forms
 - o Texas Roadhouse will have a 20% Dine In night in addition to the gift card 20%
 - Have gift baskets to raffle
 - o Sales at Berlin = \$175 of cards, which means \$35 to SEPAC
 - o Discussion over whether or not to mail purchased cards
 - Large #s should be delivered
 - Small numbers can be considered
 - Need to decide

Public Relations-Karen Groccia

- HMEA added to resource links
- All 2018-19 meetings scheduled between Tahanto and BMS
- Google calendar updated
- Site updated with link to Square store
- Google docs minutes/agenda all set
- Created fundraiser flyer
- Sold gift cards at Boylston open house
- Needs to know how to change email address forwarding from Matt
- Transitioning from Berlin/Boylston to Berlin-Boylston and setting off-side (will be final by October)
- Kerry and Matt paid for a year of hosting/server coverage – Thank you!
- Karen suggested Jay's server as a possible future solution

Pupil Personnel Services – Karen Molnar

- New staff at Berlin preschool and kindergarten as noted earlier
- The Bridges program is being used at BES for kids with more severe needs
- New 6th grade special ed teacher

New Business

- Representative search for the BES School Council
 - o Ace looking to find someone
 - o Kara Ekstrom will represent
 - Need to touch base with her for updates
- Yearbook ad – go/no-go
 - o Go with a 1/4 page ad
 - o Question asked about history of scholarship amounts during discussion
 - Last 4 years - \$300/\$300, \$500, \$300, \$300
- MassPac membership
 - o Went out last week - renewed
- Mollee Langelier, Berlin SLP piloting new program for 8 weeks
- Special Olympics October or November talk? October
- No pie fundraiser this year
- Request has been made for the sheet fundraiser again
- Jessica suggested combining with W.Boylston for Person-Centered Planning in March

- Swap location from Berlin to Tahanto, if possible
- Future thoughts
 - Add EI transition and early ed talks to draw in more parents
 - When is next preschool open house?
- Quick discussion about TEMPO music program in high school

School Meeting Reports

BES School Council

BMS School Council -

BES PTO

LINK

Boylston/Regional School Committee

Tahanto PTO

M/S/P to adjourn 9:13 p.m. Meeting adjourned.



Submitted by Esther Rhatigan

Approved:

RP **Rochelle Peret, Co-President**
Co-President

JM **Jessica Meltzer,**

Karen **Groccia, Vice President**

Kerry **Lavallee, Treasurer**

Esther **Rhatigan, Secretary**