

Hamilton-Wenham Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)

Meeting Date/Time: Tuesday, September 29th, 6:00pm Location: Virtual Meeting

Co-Chairs: Becky Bonenfant & Lindsay Whitman

Call to order – 6:03 PM Review of Agenda by Lindsay Whitman

1. Feedback on start of school – Stacy Bucyk (*Specific questions should be directed to Stacy, Maureen or Ryan*)
 - a. Introduction of Ryan Roth, Secondary Special Education Coordinator, started Monday September 28th.
 - b. Question and Answer Session, Posting of meeting will be determined and shared with SEPAC members. Reminder that this forum is for general questions. Specific questions should be addressed
 - i. Concern about lack of uniformity and integration in scheduling, using different platforms and apps for scheduling. An improved mechanism for reminders would be helpful, as well as a way to access the zoom links that does not involve the parent emails.
 1. Scheduling is challenging. The district is working towards improving this, and the expectation is that it will improve once the district switches to hybrid.
 - ii. SLP services have not initiated at the secondary level. They have brought in contracted services. They will still be hiring, but at the current time SLP services will all be remote. Additional sessions will be added in to make up for what was missed.
 - iii. There is a challenge making sure that the students may not fully understand the assignments/instruction in zoom sessions. More communication on this end would be helpful
 1. This would be great to bring up to the classroom teacher.
 - iv. For elementary remote students there are concerns with accessibility and reading of the material, as well as the appropriateness of the material. How should families determine what is working and what isn't working. A lot of the legwork is for the parent. This is not unique to the special education community.
 - v. Question about alignment with Massachusetts Curriculum frameworks. Stacy will follow up, there are some ways the learning coaches could make some changes. Previous webinars had brought up that the accelerate program does not fully align with our curriculum.
 - vi. Chat comments: Some families are very happy with the CASL program. Echo of concerns around organization of services and communication.
 - vii. What is the district doing to support families who are homeschooling? Liaisons have reached out to families. Services are remote. Students who are eligible for an IEP and homeschooling are eligible.
 - viii. Question about 1:1 services and how they are being provided. Suggestion by Stacy to reach out to the liaison or coordinator.

- ix. For families who have later in the year IEP meetings, what is the process if something is really not working?
 - 1. If you have an immediate concern, start with liaison or service provider. If you don't feel like it's being resolved, reach out to the coordinator. There is a back up of meetings that need to happen. There is a back up of testing.
 - 2. By December 15th, there needs to be discussion of regression from the spring. It does not need to be a full team meeting, but a discussion needs to happen. The district will be attending a legal seminar.
 - 3. Team Meeting scheduling may not be as flexible as it has been in the past.
 - x. Clarification on regression discussions. Discussions may be done through conversations with the liaison or coordinator.
- 2. Topics for workshops/information sharing this year
 - a. Need to have a parent's right workshop. Perhaps we can do this in conjunction with another district, Manchester-Essex, Gloucester, Danvers, etc. An in-district parent has offered to run this workshop. Kristin Crockett will follow-up.
 - b. Mass PAC membership has been renewed at the higher end. We would get the parents right workshop covered as well as another workshop.
 - c. Trauma workshop. Natalie Blue and Kristin Lazzarro will be working together on a trauma workshop for SEPAC. The details are still being worked out.
 - d. Executive Function Workshop. This was previously scheduled and was canceled. This will be happening later this year.
 - 3. Vote for treasurer – Nancy Waddell has volunteered to be treasurer. Motion made to nominate Nancy Waddell as treasurer. Seconded by Kristin Crockett. Vote Yes 3, No 0
 - 4. Financial accounts have been officially transferred to the district. It's \$500 right now. We will be getting a page on the district website. We will work on where the recordings will be posted.
 - 5. Motion to adjourn, by Lindsay Whitman, Second by Kristin Crockett
- Adjourn – 7:08 PM