

Manchester –Essex Regional Special Education Parent Advisory Council

MINUTES OF: MERSD SEPAC

PRESENT: Susan Beckmann, Allison Collins, Cynthia Beauregard, co-chair, Kathy Quill, Kari Faller, Kim Egan, Ashley Sartell, Mimi Locke, co-chair, Bernadette Ruth, Sophia Johansson, Jen Tolo, Sarah Polese Reinemann

DATE: Meeting opened at 6:35 PM. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 PM.

LOCATION: MERSD Special Ed. Conference Room

SUBJECT/TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION
1 Recap of March 23 rd SEPAC event with workshop by Lynn Lyons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80 attended the evening workshop • Positive feedback about workshop • Survey conducted during the evening indicates that parents do want support group • Follow-up about the topic of anxiety occurred at school with staff who are always incorporating it into the language of social groups and counseling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend advertise in Cricket next year • Repeat same process for next year’s event
2. Elections of new members based on 2-year term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan Beckmann’s is leaving the board and her seat is open • Cindy Beauregard will run for the 1 year position as co-chair • Jen Tolo’s term is ending • Ashley Sartell’s term as a teacher representative is ending • Alison Collins reviewed the SEPAC by-laws consists of 10 board members: 7 elected parents + 3 selected teachers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election of 2 parents – Alison will generate nomination form and mail to parent community • June 1st is the deadline for self-nominations • Election ballots will be mailed on June 4th • Amend by-laws regarding attendance criteria of board members
3. Meeting Dates for 2015-2016	* Board meetings next year will be September 14, November 9, January 11, March 14 and May 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • . Election of 1 co-chair seat will be done at the September meeting
4. SEPAC fund	* A number of questions were raised about building a fund for SEPAC as a non-profit versus accessing funds in other means	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule to have Avi, MERSD Business Manager, speak about fiscal options for SEPAC
5. Parent Support Group	* Discussion of need for a local support group * Goal may be to have it facilitated through Family Ties * Sophia has a working relationship with Family Ties and feels that this type of support group may be accomplished informally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce SEPAC to parent community in a variety of ways next year • Include 1-2 SEPAC board members at each Open House with information table
6. SEPAC role	* Need to reinstate SEPAC liaison to work with school committee and be on faculty searches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select a SEPAC board member to attend school committee meetings • Invite Pam B., Superintendent, to one SEPAC meeting
7. DESE Survey	* Alison Collins is sending out survey to all 150 families from DOE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none
8. Approval of January 15 and March 9 minutes	* Mimi made motion to approve and Cynthia seconded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May minutes will be emailed to Allison Collins and distributed to board members