

**Manchester –Essex Regional Special Education Parent Advisory Council**

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**MEETING:** MERSD SEPAC

**DATE:** May 9, 2016

**LOCATION:** Community Room at M.S./H.S.

**ATTENDEES:** Cynthia Beauregard, Kathy Quill, Kari Faller, Mimi Locke, Kim Egan, Ashley Sartell, Jen Wiese, Allison Collins, Cheryl Bagshaw Mulvey

**RECORDED BY:** Mimi Locke

SUBJECT/TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION
1. OPEN MEETING.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mimi made a motion to open meeting. Seconded by Kari.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting opened at 6:40 PM.</li> </ul>
2. Minutes from March 14, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motion to approve Minutes made by Kari.</li> <li>Seconded by Cheryl.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes approved</li> </ul>
3. September Picnic - September 11, 2016	<p>The Hooper Fund will fund \$500 for our Fall picnic event. Then re-apply to Hooper Fund for Spring speakers in the future. Kari mentioned that we will need to set up a bank account.</p>	<p>Kathy Quill asked that we send a thank you card to Hooper Fund. Kari and Cheryl will be on the Sub-Committee for the Fall Picnic.</p>
4. Spring Event review/evaluation	<p>Break-out sessions were great. Moving around to different rooms was good.  Thank you to the teachers who presented.  Ashley Sartell mentioned that she liked the size because the talk became conversational.  Cheryl mentioned Social Thinking as a future topic. Possibly putting it on a website so that people can access it.  Perhaps a keynote speaker for next time.</p>	<p>Kari suggested we do a survey to ask parents what they liked and what they might like in the future.</p>



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<p>5. Goals &amp; Ideas for next year</p> <hr/>	<p>Annually: Picnic in September. Spring event.</p> <p>Cheryl is interested in disability awareness programs in the school. Kim spoke about the puppet show (Pre-K thru 5) that she did in the past on this topic but does need funding for future visits which could include donations.</p> <p>Allison mentioned that “Understanding Our Differences” is being launched in our district. It’s a curriculum, speakers. Launching in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade next year and moving forward thereafter. Training is done and launching in fall. It is for upper elementary grades.</p> <p>Jen mentioned that she saw “Eye to Eye”, an art mentoring program whereby successful college kids with disabilities are mentoring middle school kids. Nationwide program.</p> <p>Mentoring program for kids. Matching older students with younger. At all 3 levels.</p> <p>Go to Open Houses again in September to make people aware of SEPAC.</p> <hr/>	<p>Go to the Survey to inform the topics for Spring Event. Film the event and put it on website.</p> <p>Kari did research on programming and will bring in next meeting.</p> <p>Ashley suggested we get the Curriculum Director to sit in on one of our meetings to hear our concerns.</p> <p>Board members should do research on speakers over the summer.</p> <p>Allison thinks that mentoring is something for the principals to address.</p> <hr/>
<p>6. Elections</p> <hr/> <p>Change by-laws to reflect that teachers cannot be SEPAC board members.</p> <hr/>	<p>Terms finish for Mimi, Kathy, Sarah &amp; Cindy.</p> <p>Teachers will not be on SEPAC board. Ashley talked about monthly meetings would be a lot of time commitment. Kim mentioned that it is valuable to bring back the info from the SEPAC meetings to the schools. Also, teachers can talk about expertise and current topics. Kathy emphasized that SEPAC’s role is to help the community. Allison checked with 12 other area SEPACs not having teachers on the board as well as MassPac was slightly uncomfortable with the idea.</p> <p>Communication needs to go to parents.</p> <p>Motion made by Cindy to vote on teachers not being on SEPAC board and to amend by-laws to reflect that change. Seconded by Kari.</p> <hr/>	<p>Allison will send out a letter for nominations. People that want to serve another term should re-nominate themselves regardless.</p> <p>Add goal for next year: how to communicate better to parents.</p> <p>Ashley suggested that we have a concrete idea for first fall meeting in order to get people to come to meeting.</p> <p>Kathy suggested putting the year agenda out and have available at the Open Houses in September. Newsletter to be re-visited in Fall. Could highlight a teacher.</p> <p>Board voted that teachers will not be board members. By-laws to be amended.</p> <hr/>
<p>7. Close of meeting</p>	<p>Motion made by Cindy to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Mimi.</p>	<p>Meeting closed at 7:59PM.</p>