

Carlisle Special Education
Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)
Board Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2018, 8:30am
Spaulding Conference Room

Attendees:

Will Verbits, Director of Student Services, CPS
Cynthia Sorn, Reporter, Carlisle Moquito
Carol Yelle, Parent
Amanda Comperchio, Parent
Angela Richardson, Parent
Meredith Bielecki, Parent
Jamie Caplette, Parent
Jennifer Silverstone, Parent

Will Verbits (WV) opened the meeting by welcoming those in attendance and asked for everyone to provide an introduction.

WV noted that the meeting was a public meeting and had been posted at the Town Hall in accordance with Public Meeting regulations. He requested that someone take minutes of the meeting. Carol Yelle volunteered to take minutes.

WV discussed the Massachusetts law and guidelines pertaining to the inclusion of a SEPAC in all Districts.

The law can be found here:

<https://fcsn.org/masspac/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2016/04/MA-State-Law-Regs-SEPAC.pdf>

The Guidelines can be found here:

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/pac/>

WV noted this is a parent organization, not his organization. There is currently no leadership to run a SEPAC. It is his intention by holding this meeting to resurrect the Carlisle SEPAC.

Carol Yelle (CY) discussed the history of the Carlisle SEPAC. She is a past President and shared the By-Laws with the group. There was an active SEPAC after she resigned from the SEPAC. Carol will check to see if there is a more recent By-Laws to share with the group.

There was a group discussion about where do we go from here? This seems like a big undertaking to get it going. CY and WV ensured that the group could be as big and as active as wanted. All that is needed to get the group reinstated is a President and a Secretary. The By-Laws are still active and can be re-written at a later time. WV ensured it is his goal to support the organization.

WV gave ideas of what should and should not be discussed at an open meeting. To summarize no personal information regarding a student's services should be discussed. It is a public meeting and open to all. While parents can get together for coffee, support, etc. it should be understood that SEPAC business should not be discussed during those informal gatherings.

The next MA DESE Carlisle Coordinated Program Review (CPR) is scheduled for the 2020-21 school year. WV explained what a Coordinated Program Review entails. Past Coordinated Program Reviews can be found on the DESE web site. CY asked that WV provide a link to the last Interim and Coordinated Review on the CPS Student Services website. The following link will provide SEPAC members with the outcome of the most recent full CPR from 2015.

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/pqa/review/cpr/reports/2015/0051.docx>

The following link will provide SEPAC members with the outcome of the most recent mid cycle review (MCR) from 2018.

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/pqa/review/cpr/reports/2018/followup/0051.docx>

WV all team meetings. The District is looking to obtain feedback on how the District is doing on the team meeting process. It's a hard copy survey. CY mentioned that if there had been an active SEPAC this is something the SEPAC could have provided input for.

All in attendance agreed that this meeting was not well advertised. WV is working on establishing a listserv for all parents/caregivers who have a student on an IEP. It was specifically mentioned that the pre-K classroom received no notification. It was suggested that the next meeting be publicized to all parents/caregivers as a parent blast email and not part of any other notifications. Cynthia Sorn suggested that someone write a Letter to the Editor of the Mosquito announcing the meeting and providing information about SEPAC.

WV is happy to continue to support the SEPAC until we are at a place for the parents to take the reigns.

WV updated the group on things going on in the school. There were issues at the beginning of the year with speech & language services in pre-school. The issue has been resolved.

CPS had an unexpected departure of the contracted Physical Therapist (PT). The position has been filled with another contracted PT that came highly recommended.

The CPS Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCPA) also left unexpectedly near the end of the last school year. A contractor was hired until the end of the last school year. This person has now been hired in the permanent position.

It was asked how did the District provide services while these positions were being filled. WV commented that sometimes the turn around time to fill positions is quick other times it may take time. Whenever services are missed, compensatory services have to be provided. The sessions have to be made up.

WV talked about new special education initiatives underway in the District. This year CPS has implemented a co-teaching model in grades 3rd and 4th . It is in the general education classroom. There is also co-teaching going on in 6th -7th grade levels in certain subjects.

A parent asked the question: Is this co-teaching model a pilot program? Since Will has been here there has not been co-teaching. Research shows that despite it being a more costly approach to meeting the needs of special education students in a general education classroom setting, it can be a very effective model. Particularly if you have students on an IEP with similar goals on their IEP, you are able to meet the student's needs and address the goals within the general ed classroom more

immediately, thus not requiring the need to remove the student from the classroom.

WV talked about the EDCO Collaborative. We are a member of CASE and EDCO. He provided information on what CASE is. There is a CASE classroom at Carlisle.

Those in attendance agreed on two options for the next meeting: Tuesday, November 27th 8:45 or Wednesday November 28th 8:45. Coffee and conversation then the meeting will start.

It was requested that WV confirm one of those dates and that he book a room, ensure proper advertising, post the meeting and supply coffee.

Jennifer and Angela will send WV an agenda and meeting description for the meeting.

The following questions are for WV: What amount of money have you set aside for SEPAC and where is it. This is an agenda item for the next meeting.

Many years ago the SEPAC did fundraising and there may be funds somewhere in the District. CY agreed to contact Susan Pray to research this. This is an agenda item for the next meeting.

