MINUTES

**SEPAC meeting with HPS Administration**

June 17, 2019

Student Services Building | 11 AM – 1 PM

* Our mission and role as a SEPAC
  + Reviewed both the Massachusetts DOE Guide for SEPACs and the Federal Guide for SEPACs which we received from Leslie Leslie of the Federation for Children with Special Needs
  + We represent 450 plus students and their families
  + Our role is to provide resources and education to parents through creative and relevant workshops; and to create a sense of community and inclusion for all parents and children with special needs in our town by offering support and being a friendly face during SEPAC meetings and community events.
  + Discussed our role as SEPAC and how we tie into but perform different tasks than Friends of SEPAC and the SEPAC Parent Support Group.
  + Want to be inviting and welcoming
  + Created a mission statement: The Mission of the Hopkinton SEPAC is to bring together Special Needs Parents and School Administration to provide dialogue and direct input on all matters related to the education and safety of students with disabilities. We strive to deepen the trust between Parents and Administration by collaborating together on solutions. We will provide educational workshops, resources and a supportive network to empower parents to become effective advocates for their child. We aspire to develop a sense of community and inclusion for all Parents and Children with Special Needs within our school district and the town of Hopkinton.
* How to market SEPAC and increase attendance at meetings
  + Have a popular and engaging speaker for our kick off meeting in September. We discussed several speakers but the one that was at the top of everyone’s list was Jessica Minahan.
  + We will explore the idea of speaking at all of the back to school nights and give a little plug for SEPAC
  + Discussed handing out SEPAC fliers at every IEP meeting
  + We discussed options to have parents meet their children’s teachers and therapists outside of IEP meetings. Some ideas included meetings during the day at each school so the staff can meet families, or having break out sessions at back to school nights. It was decided that neither idea was feasible due to scheduling issues.
  + Family Day is September 14. SEPAC will set up a booth and have fliers and SWAG available to handout
  + We discussed doing a local outing over the summer that would give SEPAC parents and Dr. Zaleski the opportunity to get to know each other in a fun, casual setting. We will investigate doing an outing with a vendor such as Snappy Dogs. We would like to find a place that would be a grassy area away from the road where kids can run around and we can set up some lawn games like corn hole.
* Workshops for next year
  + 6:30 – 7 refreshments and mingle, 7 – 8:30 meeting
  + Will research Jessica Minahan for September
  + Basic Rights workshop in October
    - October 23rd discussed as the tentative date
    - Discussed the idea of having the town’s lawyer, Paige Tobin, do the presentation vs. using the Federation for Children with Special Needs
    - Discussed the idea of doing an IEP workshop in the same meeting. One hour topic for each.
* SEPAC meetings for next year
  + These will be different from the workshop meetings and will ideally take place every other month. We will have a workshop one month, then a meeting the next, and so on.
* Fundraising
  + Local venues will be explored by Chelsea Rockhold and Robin Malone.
* Ran out of time, decided to reconvene on July 10 from 10 – 12 at the Central Office Conference Room, 89 Hayden Rowe Street