

Westwood Special Education Parent Advisory Council

Meeting Notes (in italics)

February 8, 2022

7:30-9:30pm

Zoom Video Conferencing

- I. School Committee Report (Amanda Phillips)
Masks discussion
Testing to be done at home from here on out
Normal lunch to be resumed
Sub-committee on school start times HS & MS later Elem. Earlier (Survey)
Metco expanding to k-5, Hanlon
Carol Lewis is not rerunning
- II. Upcoming Events (all via Zoom)
 - a. Visions of Community (VOC) is FCSN's annual conference for parents, youth, and professionals caring for children and youth with special needs. 3/14 - 3/19 (Free for One for a SEPAC Parent/Caregiver)
<https://fcsn.org/visions-of-community-conference/>
 - b. Emotional/Mental Health 2/10 @ 7:30pm
Might reschedule
 - c. Visually Impaired/Rare Syndrome/Medically Complex 2/11 @ 9am
 - d. Neurodiverse Profiles 2/15 @ 8pm
 - e. Language-Based Learning Differences 2/17 @ 7pm
Megan can help establish new groups if suggested
- III. Parent Groups Update
 - a. Neurodiverse Profiles & Emotional/Mental Health (Megan Brenk)
 - b. Visually Impaired/Rare Syndrome/Medically Complex (Kelly Anderson)
 - c. Language-Based Learning Differences (Rebecca Long)
 - d. Autism/WABA (Sam Sturma)
- IV. Community Outreach Liaison report (Megan Brenk)
getting the word out re:SEPAC
rec department
Library
- V. District Administration Report (Abby Hanscom)
 - ***METCO is Expanding to Hanlon the Hanlon/Deerfield with Lateefah Frank as director***
 - ***Budget - vote the budget***
 - ***51,700,000 - SPED = 2,074,331 from 1,242,828***

- **Additional staff in student services dept.**
 - **Adjustment counsellors in elementary schools + one more at the HS**
 - **ABA tutors**
 - **SPED IAs**
 - **SPED building substitute (Downey)**
 - **Transition coach at HS**
 - **ESY Administrative Assistant**
- **Descriptions of budget points**
- **Tuition costs & Transportation**
- **Expansion of PEER program**
- **22 kids leave district due to lack of a program in WW for them**
- **Bullying policy approved for next 2 years**
- **Covid**
 - **Staffing shifts for nurses**
 - **7 positive students 1 staff member**
- **Dyslexia Guidelines**
 - **Dyslexia small group sub group next week**
 - **All towns in MA screening for risk of Dyslexia**
 - **Westwood uses STAR assessment k-8**
 - **Online assessment**
 - **k,1,2 in September, January one more in spring**
 - **Contacting caregivers of results**
 - **flowchart for teachers to determine eligibility for literacy intervention or possibly IEP and Dyslexia identification**
 - **Can opt kids out of assessment, but it is given to everyone other diagnosis are factored into the evaluation**
 - **Currently k-2, purchasing for 3-5**
 - **Takes a few takes for the kids to learn how to take the test**
 - **Data is now available and teachers are going through data to ID kids for intervention. (No surprises) adjusting IEPs accordingly**