

SEPAC Meeting, January 14th, 2026 – Meeting Notes

Welcome and Call to Order

- There will be a special meeting on Jan 26th at 7pm in the District Office (at the high school) with the Superintendent to discuss the special education budget and program review
- Be sure to watch the school committee meeting on 1/21 when the items are initially presented

SEPAC Announcements

- 2026 Events
- Upcoming Coffee Meetups (10:30am at Neroli Mercado)
 - Feb 11, April 15
- New members are needed to fill executive board and liaison positions in 2026-2027
 - SEPAC is looking for new leadership in all positions for next year
 - There will be a free SEPAC Officer Orientation offered by FCSN on Jan 28th at 7pm. It is a virtual event and would be a good chance to learn more about how SEPAC works in general and whether you may want to be involved.
 - What positions are open and what is involved?
 - We have two co-chairs and two co-secretaries
 - The co-chairs have regular meetings with the administration, run meetings, and arrange special programming
 - There are liaisons in each school who help direct parents when they need assistance
 - Please contact us if you are interested in getting involved
 - Would be great to have new families with kids in younger grade levels involved
- Outside organization event announcements
 - Director of Student Services Update - Lori Cimeno
 - The special education report will be reviewed at school committee on 1/21

- The consultants who assembled it will be presenting on their findings
 - Looking forward to meeting on 1/26 to answer questions from SEPAC families
- District and Staff Updates
 - School Committee Update - Dori Parmalee
 - Be sure to attend school committee (or watch on Westwood Media Center) on 1/21
 - The school committee will reconvene on 2/5 and vote whether to send the budget to the select board
 - They are currently conducting a search for a new Director of Student Services. They hope to announce their hiring decision on 2/5
 - After that, they will begin hiring for a new Sheehan principal
 - Commission on Disability - Steph Finegold
 - Joann Flatley from Riverside in Needham visited to talk to the commission about mental health as a disability and how to access mental health supports at the state level.
 - She would be open to coming to talk to SEPAC in the future.

Q&A

- Past program overview and transition meetings have been well-attended
- Lori said department heads want to reengage with SEPAC, so she will coordinate with Lauren/Asanka
- Parents have expressed concerns about Pine Hill WABA staff leaving. When the upper WABA teacher left, she had an exit interview with Lori and provided a lot of helpful information about why she decided to leave.
- The IA union will be negotiating a new contract this spring.

Adjournment

- Next Community Meeting May 13, 2026, 7:30pm Library or on Zoom