

Date: 11/8/2024 9-10:15am

Location: Sprague Elementary

SEPAC leadership present: Eve Aguilar, Co-Chair; Joel Mack, Co-Chair; Dabney Baum, Treasurer

- I. Social time and introductions
- II. Meetings minutes from 10/11 meeting approved
- III. Update from School Wellness Advisory Council (SWAC) meeting
 - a. Focus was on student mental health (notably, anxiety) and how to support students.
 - b. Invited guest was Medway Schools to discuss its broad initiative to involve community resources (such as YMCA, food banks, and others) so students are supported beyond the classroom—in the evenings, weekends, holidays, and summers. They screen all students and have had great success with a program that integrates a few mental health counselors, providing them a space to meet with students throughout the day.
 - c. WPS has a pilot program to screen 7th grade students at WMS, with hopes to expand the program district-wide.
- IV. Please reach out to Kayla Sheets, SEPAC SWAC representative, for more information.
- V. Update from Central Council Meeting
 - a. Discussion of District Assessments, including MAP testing. Parents can always request their minor child's education record, including test results, by sending a request to the teacher (informal) or writing to the principal or Director of Student Services (formal). School District is required to respond as soon as practicable and not to exceed 10 days.
 - b. Linda Chow presented on the work of the Academic Calendar Task Force. SEPAC made the point that diversity and inclusion considerations don't begin and end with religious diversity, but must also include consideration of the impact of the calendar on students with disabilities. SEPAC has written an open letter, published on our website and sent to the School Committee, to highlight the impact of a calendar with several non-federal holidays on disabled students.
 - c. Superintendent Lussier discussed that this would be a tight budgetary year with the Select Board setting a 3.25% guideline for increase in the budget. Due to the collective bargaining agreement, mandatory wage increases account for nearly all of that number.
 - d. Dr. Adam Steiner, WPS Director of Educational Technology, introduced himself. SEPAC asked about considerations of using screentime for trade-ins and disability accessibility regulations.
 - e. Wellesley Education Foundation (WEF) presented on the grant process.
- VI. Discussion of Bullying, including resources prepared by Special Education Advocate Lucy Verhave.
- VII. Suggestions for programming include:
 - a. Bullying
 - b. Inclusion and reframing how we think about students with disabilities – why are they always forced to conform?
 - c. Bureau of Special Education Appeals (BSEA) to discuss facilitated meetings and mediation.
- VIII. Compiling Summer Camp Recommendations.
- IX. Claire Higgins, Assistant Director of Specialized Programs, introduced herself and her new role.