

Albany Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) Meeting Minutes
5/9/24/ Virtual Meeting / Moderated by Becky Zimmerman
Attendees: 11 attendees. Notes by SEPAC Officers

- New Business:

Presentation by **Asst. Professor Tammy Ellis Robinson, Ph.D. University at Albany, SUNY**
Division of Special Education, Division of Educational Psychology and Methodology, Department
of Educational and Counseling Psychology, School of Education Director of Equity and Inclusion;
Faculty Director: Beloved Community Fellows Program

**“Equity in Transition: Identity, Advocacy, and Options for after High School Graduation for
Students with Disabilities”**

See linked slides for presentation content:

[Equity in Transition: Identity, Advocacy, and Options for After High School for
Students with Disabilities](#)

- Key points:

- Consider skills and strengths of the child and how to build upon these, rather than focusing on deficits
 - IEP should be child-based and needs to include conversations with students and parents
 - Children are influenced by how others see them/Adults can encourage child to focus on strengths
- Self-advocacy and disability awareness:
 - Disability awareness is a component of identity
 - Students who are transitioning out of school need to know about their rights and what they will need in the workplace

- SEPAC Updates

- Voting for SEPAC Officers concluded, with 10 people voting virtually and one person voting in-person. A quorum was reached. All Officers were elected unanimously. Thanks to those who voted and congratulations to the following people who were elected for two-year terms:
 - Co-Chairs: Becky Zimmerman and Mary Nolan
 - Secretary: Charise Parris
 - Parent Members at Large: Shannon Reed-LaVigne and Tina Collymore
 - Staff Member at Large: Maureen Aromi

■ Community Member at Large: Amy Wilson

- See linked slides for SEPAC presentation content
[5/9/24 SEPAC Presentation](#)
- SEPAC provided updates on our Preschool Letter-writing campaign, PTA Leaders Meetings, Meeting with Director of Facilities Joe Karas and Superintendent Joseph Hochreiter, and Meeting with Directors of Special Education (including change in delivery of Special Ed services and Summer School after care)
- Next Virtual Meeting:
 - **Thursday, 6/13/24 6:30-7:30**
 - With Elaine Griessler, Director of Special Education
- Meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm