

Business Meeting #4 MINUTES

10 MAR 2025 / 6:00 PM / Alden 104

ATTENDEES

SEPAC Board (parents): Kate Reynolds, Lauren Byron, Ashley Query, Patty Lee
DPS Admin: Director of SPED, Theresa Skinner

School Committee:

Community members: 4

AGENDA 6 pm-7:10 pm Business Mtg

Welcome / Introductions

SEPAC UPDATES:

→ Shining Light Awards - a time to celebrate!

- ◆ The Shining Light Awards are a **celebration of the fabulous staff** that support our children!
- ◆ Please take a moment this year to nominate a special teacher or any support staff who made a significant impact on your child.
- ◆ A festive restaurant venue this year (location TBD) to foster a relaxed social opportunity for teachers and parents outside of school
- ◆ Come meet these remarkable special education teachers and staff in DPS!
- ◆ Award Night is 1st week June - date TBD
- ◆ SEPAC to increase marketing of this great event! Partner with PTO to get the word out, etc...
- ◆ **Volunteers needed! Please email board** DuxburySEPAC@gmail.com

→ Subgroups

DYSLEXIA (BOLDD)– Exploring opportunity for movie screening of “Left Behind”

AUTISM – SEPAC is testing the waters for interest in a parent autism subgroup. DPS will be reaching out to parents soon with more info. Parents would determine what they hope to gain out of this group such as:

- Sharing of school, home, community resources
- Social opportunities for their child
- Discussions re how to best support children with ASD at school and partnering with DPS admin to improve outcomes of students with ASD
- Parents who have been on this journey can support parents new to this journey
- An informal coffee hour or after work meet-up to connect with parents on the above in a safe and supportive environment. We aim to find a time that works for you!

Please email the SEPAC Board if you are interested in joining the autism parent group and watch for more info to come!

DuxburySEPAC@gmail.com

→ SEPAC/Admin Collaboration

- ◆ SEPAC is looking to have a shared understanding with admin in terms of student outcome data, SPED processes and SPED programming in order to understand opportunities for improvement for DPS. (What are we doing and how do we know it is working?)
- ◆ SEPAC raised the idea of a needs assessment to support this more vulnerable subgroup of students
 - Director discussed the need to keep it actionable and simple

- ◆ Director discussed some key outcome data that SPED can share:
 - MCAS, including student growth percentiles
 - Tiered systems of support data
 - “Street data” – teacher observation, hard to capture
- SEPAC asked for MCAS data to be put in context of similar districts – how is Duxbury doing in comparison?
 - What is the gap between SWD and non-SWD MCAS scores?
- SEPAC noted there is no current measure of SEL performance to know if DPS is meeting its SEL goals outlined in “Portrait of a Graduate” and many students have SEL goals
- Director mentioned Beth Wilcox is exploring SEL screeners
- SEPAC mentioned an SEL measuring tool for teachers and will provide the resource to Director
- SEPAC requested outcome data from the Language Based Program so parents know that it is working

→ **SEPAC is increasing outreach efforts to increase parent engagement**

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→ **SEPAC Board elections for all four positions at May 19th Business Meeting**

◆ **As of 3/10, there is one Co-chair seat with no incumbent**

◆ **Consider throwing your hat in the ring for any position!**

Please email the board if you are interested.

- This is a great opportunity to make a difference for the students in DPS by collaborating with admin and supporting parents in the process of special education

→ **School Budget Update**

- ◆ Override is on the ballot for March 22 annual town election
- ◆ Early voting is open at Town Hall

- **SEPAC expenses need to be paid out by end of May**
- **APPLE workshop update** – Sponsored by Federation for Children with Special Needs
 - ◆ The purpose is to support collaboration between stakeholders
 - ◆ Topic – the new IEP
 - ◆ Workshop members: Director, SEPAC co-chair, Team Chairs, parents
 - ◆ ongoing

DIRECTOR UPDATES:

- Working with Team Chairs to build coherence, collaboration and coordination between DPS schools so students feel a sense of continuity as they advance from building to building
- Transitions Program – New curriculum, *Unique Learning Systems (ULS)*, is in place at all schools except Chandler which will be rolled out next year
 - ◆ Includes all core curriculum areas plus SEL and symbol sticks
 - ◆ Teachers have had PD for ULS
 - ◆ Assessments included with ULS curriculum
- Language based Program – uses the OG approach to support the DPS curriculum
- Partnership Program – no special curriculum used, students in general education
- Director recently purchased an executive functioning skills curriculum called *Cerebrate* which is in place at the Middle and High School.
- **Open Comments / Questions / Feedback**

7:10 pm-8 pm Parent Support/Check-in

- ◆ Caregiver is looking for a workshop on how to navigate the digital platforms that students use (new to DPS)

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Next Parent Support April 14, (location, time TBD)

**Next Business Meeting/Board elections May 19, 2025 6-8pm Alden rm
104 and virtually**

Email SEPAC Board Members with questions, concerns, or agenda items

DuxburySEPAC@gmail.com

www.DuxburySEPAC.org