## WATERTOWN SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (SEPAC)



Watertown Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) falls under the requirements in the State Statute and Regulation:

The Massachusetts special education law Chapter 71B2 of the Massachusetts General Law, requires a school district to establish a PAC, and assign both an advisory and a participatory function to the PAC.

The school committee of any city, town, or school district shall establish a parent advisory council on special education. Membership shall be offered to all parents of children with disabilities and other interested parties. The parent advisory council duties shall include but not be limited to: advising the school committee on matters that pertain to the education and safety of students with disabilities; meeting regularly with school officials to participate in the planning, development, and evaluation of the school committee's special education programs. The parent advisory council shall establish by-laws regarding officers and operational procedures. In the course its duties under this section, the parent advisory council shall receive assistance from the school committee without charge, upon reasonable notice, and subject to the availability of staff and resources.

Watertown SEPAC is run by parent volunteers who were nominated and elected by parents and includes all stakeholders in our community. Our meetings are all free and open to the public, including people from other cities and towns. Feel free to invite family members, friends, or others from outside our community who you think may be interested in our meetings!

We provide families and other community members with the following:

- \* information about basic rights for families pertaining to special education
- \* workshops and Speaker Events for Parents and Caregivers
- \* contact information for our school special education administrators and school committee members in Watertown
- \* a space to discuss special education concerns and ask questions
- \* access to local and state-level resources that can help answer more involved questions
- \* community support!

## Your SEPAC Officers are:

Cara Coller, Chair Colleen Mahoney-Faherty and Hilary Leamer, Co- Secretaries Debi Cornelius and Elizabeth Dagnall Community Outreach

You can reach all of us at any time by emailing <u>watertownSEPAC@gmail.com</u>, Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have!

## **Upcoming 2018-2019 SEPAC Meetings**

September 13<sup>th 9:00 a.m.</sup> (no childcare) & 6:00p.m. (childcare provided)

*Turning 3 -* Phillips Data Lab, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

October 11<sup>th 9:00</sup> a.m. (no childcare) & 6:00p.m. (childcare provided)

Basic Rights – Federation Prepared Presentation - Phillips Data Lab, 3rd Floor

November 8th 9:00 a.m. (no childcare)

ABCs of ABA – Applied Behavioral Analysis, with our BCBAs- Phillips Data Lab, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

November 15<sup>th</sup> 6:00p.m. (childcare provided)

ABCs of ABA – Applied Behavioral Analysis, with our BCBAs - Phillips Data Lab, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

December 13<sup>th 9:00 a.m. (no childcare)</sup>

Holiday Survival – Informal coffee- Phillips Data Lab, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

January 10<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. (no childcare) & 6:00p.m. (childcare provided)

Evaluations – Initial and 3-Year – What to Expect - Phillips Data Lab, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

February 14<sup>th 6:00p.m. (childcare provided)</sup>

An IEP for My Child- Phillips Data Lab, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

March 7<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. (no childcare) & 6:00p.m. (childcare provided)

Presentation of Community Supports and Services- Phillips Data Lab, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

April 11<sup>th 9:00 a.m. (no childcare)</sup>

Informal Coffee- Phillips Data Lab, 3rd Floor

April 11<sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m. (no childcare)

Awards Ceremony at Watertown Library

May 9<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. (no childcare) & 6:00p.m. (Childcare provided)

Secondary Transition Planning – Timelines from ages 14-22- Phillips Data Lab, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

June 13<sup>th 9:00 a.m. (no childcare)</sup>

Planning Meeting for SEPAC 2019-2020 School Year- Phillips Data Lab, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor