

Barrington Public Schools Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

BHS Library, 7:00 pm

1. Call to Order

7:07pm; 8 members in attendance

2. Approval of minutes from February 8, 2017

Voice approval

3. Updates on Recent Initiatives

HMS inclusion initiatives are moving forward, with principal touching base with staff; more to come

Director of Pupil Personnel has been working to contact other superintendents and to identify possible mentors, with the hope of getting a Best Buddies chapter going in Barrington; more to come

In order to increase our visibility with PTOs and so to jump start any initiatives we have (such as the inclusion initiative from last year), we should plan to attend the PTO presidents' meetings with the superintendent periodically. We will call Toni Ann and ask to be put on the agenda when possible. Some issues to try to explore through this route: projected open house dates (so we can plan to be present and offer materials); reminder to PTOs to maintain budget line for us; inclusion initiative; any other initiatives that we develop.

Website/group connection for special ed families update: Concerns include families and their privacy (possibility of aliases and a directory) and also whether SEAC can formally be connected to such a group. Site editorship and monitoring were discussed. A wordpress blog format was suggested and a sample of such a format may be presented at the next meeting.

4. Planning for Special Educator Awards

a. Discussion of soliciting nominations from students and parents/guardians

This will go out no later than April 7 by email, with an attached nomination form. Specific mention will be made of the desirability of having students themselves nominate their teachers and other staff.

Return date will be April 28.

Plan to meet to discuss in the first week of May.

b. Discussion of ceremony details

School committee room has been reserved for the late afternoon of May 30.

Plan for informal celebratory event, with modest snacks, power point, and award certificates/plaques as in past years. Important that we contact administrators directly, as well as School Committee members, in order to have them attend.

5. Discussion of By-Law Edits

Old and new by laws accepted by voice acclamation and attached. Edits were of two categories: Coming into full compliance with state guidelines and small grammar catches.

6. New Business

A question arose about the privacy of special ed students' records in Aspen. What are the ramifications of having data or notes recorded there? Special ed students may have more data (or more sensitive data) in Aspen than others. We discussed having Dave Burroughs come in to explain something about that to us, next year.

For our next meeting, we will hope to have Kristen Matthes offer an overview of the funding process in Special Education (from federal to state to local) so that we are better informed; we will look for further updates on recent initiatives including the possible blog; choose a date and time for review of nominations for the SEAC awards, preferably early in May.

Overall, we continue to seek to increase our visibility within the school community.

7. Adjourn: 8:22 pm