

Barrington SEAC

Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Barrington Public Library, Trustee Room

1. Call to order, 6:35 p.m.; attendee list on file
2. Approval of minutes from April, 2017 meeting: voice consensus, no dissent
3. Social inclusion initiative updates:
  - a. Hampden Meadows, report from Kristen Matthes and Millie Harris: "Fellow Friends"
    - i. As part of a Gold Award Girl Scout project, Millie (BHS) is working with Tracey McGee
    - ii. Due to legal liability, off site events had to be reconsidered. Instead, school sanctioned events will take place at the school
    - iii. Events being considered are cupcake decorating, music lessons, maker space projects, crafting, drum circle, among others
    - iv. Next steps: invitation to all students to participate. Peer buddies would then be provided training. Teachers will chaperone. Events will be SEAC sponsored and school sanctioned.
  - b. Barrington Middle School, report from Andy Anderson: "BMS Buddies"
    - i. Widespread faculty support for the project
      1. Guidance will help locate peer buddies
      2. Also there will be an open invitation for peers, including parent info coming soon
    - ii. Training for Peer Buddies might be able to take place on a PD day
    - iii. Will be run/sustained as a sub-committee of Student Council
    - iv. Planned activities include: bringing Peer Buddies into the snack cart, once students with IEPs are secure with the job (this would likely be 1x a month during FAST); lunch together maybe once a month—"Buddy Café"; ideally Buddies would go to a Sports Night or a school sporting event together, eventually
    - v. Next steps: perhaps an interest survey to help pair students; selection and training of peer buddies; final pairings; development of activities and plan for sustainability with Student Council
  - c. Barrington High School
    - i. Currently has Unified Theater and Sports; theater especially has seen huge growth
    - ii. SEAC is interested in continuing to pursue Best Buddies or a similar program, in order to build on the programs at HMS and BMS, as well as to offer an option for students who enjoy 1:1 interactions but are not able to join in larger groups
    - iii. Next steps: continue to research different models

1. Mashpee MA has an innovative model
  2. East Providence does as well—perhaps an actual Best Buddies Chapter?
  3. Affiliation with the larger organization (BB) is useful in providing outside organized events/activities
  4. We need to locate a potential advisor for it to become a club, and a student (sophomore or junior, potentially) who might make it a senior project would be a great help
4. SEAC survey for families to be developed
    - a. Should include mission statement/explanation of who we are and what we are able to do
    - b. Should have a small and focused number of questions, with the focus being, a) what do families want from SEAC, in order to provide support to them; and b) what do families want from SEAC, in order to provide support to their child?
5. New business
    - a. Possibility of an online resource such as a closed facebook group.
      - i. This would be possible if we were to have a group that simply shared information, dates, events, resources
      - ii. A group that encouraged open conversation and posting by all members would be difficult to administrate; an official SEAC page should be informational only, and can be put together easily
      - iii. Any individual can create an interest based page of another type. Those kinds of pages fall outside of SEAC's responsibility to moderate and should not carry the name of Barrington SEAC
    - b. Member suggestions for improving SEAC included more efforts toward expanding membership and retaining members; a stronger emphasis on deadlines for achievement of objectives; more interaction with special educators and all levels of service providers in the schools; the potential for acting as a political block that can bring about change in the community/overall increasing influence; a newsletter or other printed matter that could circulate lists of resources; a concerted effort to put ideas into action; and mentorship links between current families and those new to the IEP process.
      - i. Some of these ideas are being addressed—the increased membership has been targeted with a SEAC presence at the open houses, for example
      - ii. others can be addressed via the webpage, such as the resource list
      - iii. others can be clarified via the SEAC survey described above
      - iv. the mentorship idea will be pursued and reported on at the next meeting
6. Adjourned, 8:20 p.m.