

**Barrington Public Schools**  
**Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
Wednesday, March 9, 2022 @ 7:00 pm  
Barrington Middle School Presentation Room, 261 Middle Highway

Meeting started at 7:06

**A. Acceptance of minutes from Feb. 16 meeting B - approved**

**B. Presentation from SPEAR (Special Education Advocacy Reform)**

Joanna Scocchi and Ashley Scungio - presented new proposed special education legislation in Rhode Island.

- Obudsman Act – an independent agency to collect data, investigate claims/issues, and assess, evaluate and offer proposed remedies to districts. Provide guidance for families and schools.
- Obudsman renders an opinion, does not make decisions in disputes
- This would not change other legal avenues, it is an additional option to file a compliant
- “If you want to fix education for all, you need to start with the most vulnerable population”

**C. IEP Best Practices - Barrington**

- 1 – student self-assessment
- 2 – educator/therapist template to help assess skills in different settings
- 3 – should the IEP meeting be broken up in to two meetings to draft and then finalize the IP to foster a more collaborative environment?
- Kristen will discuss with district administrators
- Mark would like to see more students (even at the younger levels) attend the IEP meetings in at least some capacity

**D. American Rescue Funds update - Presented by Kristen Matthes**

- Funds are meant to address the unmet needs of students due to COVID
  - Expected learnings gaps or lack of expected functional skills progress
- Discussed examples of activities that funds can be used for

**E. SEAC / DEI work group**

- Looking for volunteers from each group to form a working group to help develop a guidance document for school events to make sure events are accessible to all students
  - Peggy and Janice

**F. New Business**

- What transition opportunities are available to students who are “graduating” but staying in the district longer?
- Any topics people want shared in focus group for BHS principal? Jack to collect feedback via personal email.
- Challenge each member to bring a friend to the next meeting
- Next meeting Wednesday April 13, 2022

Adjourned – 8:21