

Nashoba Special Education Parents Advisory Council (SEPAC)

Business Meeting/Social

Tues. March 16, 2021

7 p.m.

Present: Kate Gianetti, Charlene Cabral, Jenny Blounts, Melissa Whalen, Michele Powell, Andrea Coffman, Greg Weeks, Christine Collins, Jackie Spataro, Pamela Duggan, Susan Munyon

Meeting Minutes:

1. Call to order/introductions
2. Review and approve minutes from 2/9 meeting.
 - Charlene reviewed minutes from 2/9 meeting: **unanimously approved**
3. Proposed changes to [by-laws](#) + discussion.
 - Membership: Leslie Leslie advised that we keep membership as it is
 - FB page is for *voting* members of SEPAC only (for privacy and to keep advertisers, etc. off of the page)
 - Flexibility clause (ie, a member can hold two board positions at once)
 - Emergency clause (ie, pandemic), we are not held strictly to the by-laws
4. Vote on changes to by-laws: **unanimously approved**
5. New Business:
 - a. Filling officer vacancies in the interim before elections
Move to have an interim election:
 - Secretary
 - Jenny Blounts nominated: **unanimous yes**
 - Bolton Liaison
 - Pamela Duggan nominated: **unanimous yes**
 - b. Decide on process/date for elections
 - Elections will take place on Tues. 4/13
 - c. Update on support groups.
 - Interest in groups for autism, dyslexia, genetic disabilities, out-of-district placements
 - Possibly use parent socials as a way to support this--ie, breakout rooms
 - Check in with other local SEPACs to see how they handle it
 - d. Light it Up Blue Event (Melissa Whalen)
 - Worldwide Autism Awareness event--Fri. 4/2
 - Lighting up the Stow Community Center with blue solar lights

- Drive-through event this year--decorate cars
- Gift bags for first 40-50 attendees
- Possibility to help spread the word about SEPAC
- Susan M. suggests the Unitarian church in Lancaster could also "light it up blue"
- Charlene can reach out to Church/town administrator in Lancaster about future "Light it up Blue" events
- Michele volunteered to work on a flyer and possibly update the SEPAC tri-fold flyer
- Melissa W. will create a Facebook event to be shared

e. Possible virtual programs/workshops for spring

- *Life, Animated* film screening (possible to do virtually? Maybe help from public access TV)
- Kate Wang/The Kerrigan Classroom--Jenny will reach out to Kate to discuss
- Donna Shea from Peter Pan--friendship, social-emotional skills
- Shrewsbury Youth & Family Services (recommended by Pam Duggan)--mental health issues

6. Questions/concerns from membership.

- "Buddy Ball" (Melissa will share information about an inclusive baseball team)
- Unified Sports
- Access to sports for kids who need supports?
- Charlene proposed a compilation of accommodation as a resource for parents
- SEPAC awards/acknowledgements for Nashoba staff
 - Google Form to solicit names of educators that parents would like to acknowledge for making a difference in their children's life this school year
 - Also names of students who have made an effort to be inclusive/helpful/supportive

7. Business for next meeting/reminders.

- a. Next business meeting is April 13th.
- b. No social for April (Spring break).

8. Close business meeting--9:01.