

Nashoba Special Education Parents Advisory Council (SEPAC)
Business Meeting
Tues. May 25, 2021
7 p.m.

Present: Charlene Cabral, Jenny Blounts, Michele Powell, Jackie Spataro, Christine Collins, Dana Green, Yetsenaira Valdez, Pam Duggan

Meeting Minutes (taken by Jenny Blounts)

1. Call to order/introductions
2. Review and approve minutes from 4/13 meeting. Christine moved to approve / Jenny seconded; unanimously approved.
3. New Business
 - a. Previous Chairs who held an account for SEPAC are moving away. Kathy Codianne (retiring School Committee chairperson) has played a key role with SEPAC and was asked to be affiliated with the account. This can help facilitate a move to making the "Friends of SEPAC" a 501(c)3.
 - b. Kathy Codianne and Charlene Cabral are now officially on the account, which requires approval from the membership.
 - c. Looking toward the possibility of fundraising in order to be able to bring on new speakers, workshops, etc.
 - d. Pam moved to approve transfer of signatories of bank account to Kathy Codianne and Charlene Cabral; transfer of bank account from previous SEPAC chair(s) to Charlene Cabral and Kathy Codianne--approved by a vote of 7-1
4. Discussion/updates on SEPAC projects:
 - a. Update on Support Groups
 - i. Very successful parent social meeting last week
 - ii. Not enough attendees to have breakout rooms, but there was a lot of overlap with the small group that was gathered and everyone chatted together and shared ideas, resources, and support.
 - iii. Michele will continue to work on a flyer/graphic to use for future support group-oriented meetings.
 - b. SEPAC Stars
 - i. SEPAC is not allowed to distribute awards to teachers, per Joan DeAngelis. Instead we will provide a certificate and encourage parents to present awards to individual educators who have had a positive impact on their child this year.

- ii. Michele will work on finalizing the SEPAC Stars certificate so we can post it for parents to access soon.
 - c. Accommodations List -- a work in progress
 - d. Unified Sports (and other inclusive activities)
 - i. Unified sports (and other extracurriculars) are important for community/inclusion, but many parents are unaware of them. How can we publicize these programs more so that students/parents know they are available?
 - ii. Possibility of presentation at future SEPAC meeting; making the information more accessible on the website.
 - iii. Re: getting information about the SEPAC and special education in general out more broadly in the community--possibility of SEPAC reps working closely with each community's PTO: attending meetings, having PTO reps attend our meetings, making sure SEPAC is listed under parent resources on school websites.
 - iv. Christine will reach out to her contacts at Luther Burbank re: unified sports, Best Buddies, etc. about possibly exploring a presentation for next year.
 - e. Superintendent search
 - i. 3 Finalists are being interviewed this week.
- 5. Member concerns/questions
 - a. Discussion of ways of fundraising, what funds would be used for, etc.
 - b. How much would it cost to establish a 501(c)3 and what would it take to manage?
 - c. Michele and Pam are willing to form a committee to investigate what it would take to set it up, fees, etc. so that we have that information if/when we decide to go that route.
- 6. Business for next meeting/reminders.
 - a. Next business meeting is June 8th
 - i. Making plans for next year
 - ii. Action items for the summer to be prepared for the fall
 - b. Parent Social on June 15th
 - i. Michele will look into possibly getting some tables outside at Slater's for the final social of the year.
- 7. Close business meeting.