

Concord Public School  
and  
Concord-Carlisle Regional School District  
Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)

Minutes

Thursday February 25, 2021

7pm

[www.concordsepac.org](http://www.concordsepac.org) [concordsepac@gmail.com](mailto:concordsepac@gmail.com)

Concord -Carlisle SEPAC is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://concordps.zoom.us/j/94704686501?pwd=bk9oWW9DT3pDTzBVZGI5U0REV3NOdz09>

Meeting ID: 947 0468 6501

Passcode: 303254

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

1. Open Meeting and Attendance (5min)

- “In accordance with Governor Baker’s executive order permitting virtual meetings during the COVID pandemic, the Concord and Concord-Carlisle Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) is conducting this meeting today, February 25, 2021 at 9:30am eastern on the Zoom platform and in accordance with the Town’s Policy Directive and Guidelines issued on April 1, 2020 and amended on May 7. I ask that all SEPAC committee members, town staff, and presenters activate their video and mute their microphone unless they have something to say or are participating in committee dialogue. All committee votes will be taken via roll call. We will start with an attendance roll call. I will announce your name, please reply. For members of the public, please unmute yourself when I’ve opened the meeting to public comment.”
- Board Roll call

2. Committee/Liaison Updates (15 min)

- PTG Co-Presidents Meetings- Heather Bout and Court Booth presented CMS Building updates. They offered listening sessions to the parent groups and asked how best to reach these groups. An early identifier for mental health app from the Chase Bjork Foundation was discussed. When the app is ready for release perhaps we can advertise it.
- SC Meetings - School Committee voted to dissolve their relationship with EDCO. The District has no students in the EDCO Collaborative but has been using EDCO for professional development. Ruth said this is not a decision worth celebrating but couldn’t be avoided.
- CMSBC Meetings-Tracey has attended a design and building committee meeting. We don’t have representation on the committee and are still looking for a liaison to assist Tracey in attending meetings. Completion looks five years out. It was brought to SEPACs attention that in the 50 plus page CMS Educational Plan there was no mention of budget cuts except under Special Education. The commenter expressed

their concern that the "only budget cut to programming being made is to the programs affecting the most vulnerable students". They expressed that they may not vote for the new school based on this. Our School Committee Liaison let us know that if we have something we want to bring to their attention we should attend forums and their meetings and use public comment time. We can also bring concerns to Building Chairs Dawn Guarriello and Pat Nelson, and/or email the committee. Laurie Hunter had also offered to attend another SEPAC meeting if desired. The building committee email address and meeting schedule is on the concordps.org website under CMS Building Committee and also at concordma.gov

- Appreciation Awards Committee-Ruth Grube approved a budget of \$10-\$15 per recipient. She feels that after this challenging year that recipients should be especially honored for their work. Ruth will give us a final decision April 1 about whether we can do an outdoor in person recognition event at the high school.

### 3. Objectives for 2020-2021 (5 min)

- Action plan for board priorities

We have had some parents reach out to help with smaller projects after mentioning the projects in our January newsletter. To continue to recruit parents and guardians, the thought is to have the liaisons to reach out at their schools. It was also suggested that we ask liaisons for help with these smaller projects. Shaina will send Sarah B. the project list so Sarah can contact the liaisons.

### 4. Chair updates

- Co-President:

- i. SEPAC Welcome Packet- Feedback and corrections were taken
- ii. First responder [form](#) -Feedback and corrections were taken. This confidential form filled out by guardians/parents goes to the school and town emergency response teams.
- iii. Meetings with Ruth Grube - Shaina and Sarah B. attended this meeting.
  1. A CC consultant, who hasn't yet signed a contract, an inclusion specialist, is hoping to train teachers about creating inclusion classrooms. The consultant may also share info about inclusion with parents/guardians, too potentially via a talk in the fall.
  2. Tiered monitoring is underway. DESE sent an email to parents asking them to respond to a research survey. There are also advertisements about the survey in the Mosquito and the Concord paper. The SEPAC will find out if we could post about the survey on the SEPAC website.
- iv. Recruitment
  1. Single tasks
  2. SEPAC board members are asked to take time to write down everything that you do in your SEPAC role to make the job easier to pass on to someone else.
- v. Budget based meeting- March 25th meeting will be a typical board meeting rather than budget focused.

- Events: Tracey Marano

- i. Basic Rights in Special Education meeting: It was helpful for the new people who attended. Maynard is hoping to host an event: "Understanding the IEP" in April.
  - ii. Coffee / Listening session - Tracey proposed holding this outside at the Concord library.
  - iii. Tracey proposed hosting a presentation about dyslexia. Nancy Duggin was recommended as a presenter.
  - iv. Possible presentation by Ruth Grube, Andrew Nyamekye and Kristin Herbert. Ruth proposed doing a presentation about "How Special Ed Interacts with Cultural Competency." We're looking at the question: are we diagnosing students from different cultural backgrounds disproportionately?
  - v. The SEPAC would also like to arrange more events, using in-house resources, that educate parents about services available to students.
  - vi. Spring events -see above
  - o Publicity: Appreciation awards nominations are underway. The SEPAC wants to publicize the Committee on Disability meeting in March.
  - o Technology: The traffic on the SEPAC Facebook page was reported.
  - o Membership
    - i. The SEPAC needs a liaison for the Branch program.
    - ii. The SEPAC is looking for class parents/guardians for the sub-separate classrooms.
  - o Secretary: The approval of the Jan 28, 2021 Minutes was unanimous.
5. Public comments (none)
  6. Close Meeting

Upcoming Meetings:

- o 3/25/2021 (Board Meeting) Tracey will conduct the meeting until Shaina arrives.
- o 4/29/2021 (Board Meeting)
- o 6/10/2021 (Board Meeting)

Attendees:

Tracey Marano  
Helen McKinlay  
Shaina Brito  
Ruth Grube  
Sarah Bettencourt  
Becky Robichaud  
Alexa Anderson  
Sarah Nichol  
Colleen W  
2 people dialed in on phones