Special Education Parents Advisory Council (SEPAC) Update

Presented by SEPAC Board Members: Dr. Sheila Mehta-Green, Erica Colbath, Coreen Garrett and Erica Callahan School Committee Meeting, April 27, 2021

Leadership at **Integrated Pre-**School, Davis, Lane, JGMS, BHS and Out of District Partners

Students

Teachers

Special Ed Program Administrators





Overview Areas of interest for collaboration Questions

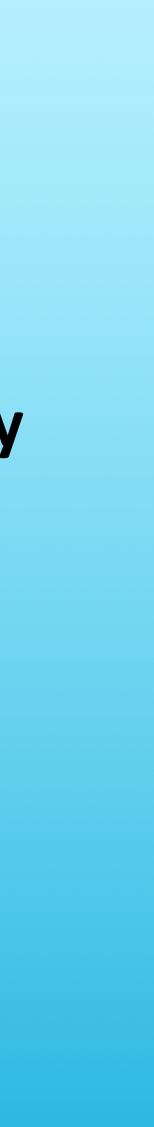
Agenda

Special Education Parents Advisory Council (SEPAC)

Bedford Special Education Parents Advisory Council (SEPAC) serves as a valuable resource for parents, guardians, caretakers and educators of children with disabilities and/or learning challenges as a networking hub to connect with others to share information and offer mutual support.

Bedford SEPAC Mission for Inclusion

To provide feedback to our school district and support to our parent community to provide an inclusive learning environment for all our special education students



Working Together

- **Open forum meetings with our membership**
- **Planning meetings with Marianne Vines**
- Workshop Training from the Federation for Children with Special Needs
 - March 23, 2021: Basic Rights- Understanding the IEP
 - February 10, 2021: MCAS for Students with Disabilities
 - Fundraising
- **Speaker Series**
- Facebook parents group
- **Bedford SEPAC website**



- "Wait and See" Mentality
- **Orton Gillingham (OG) Training**
- **Title 1 Reading Program**

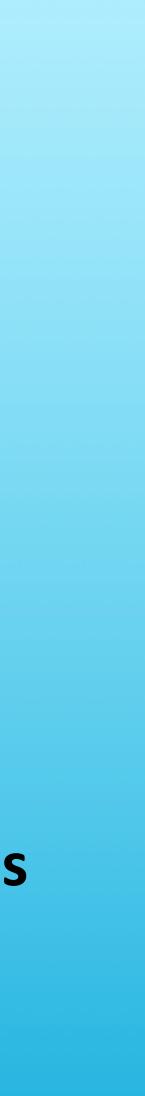
Collaboration Request: Collaborative meeting with the literacy team to provide parent perspective on the district literacy planning headed by Dr. Tricia Clifford

Communication

- **Davis-DIBELS** score
- **Communication of reading services to parents, including RTI Communication on truant/tardy issues with special ed liaison awareness**

Collaboration Request: (already in process) Marianne Vines documenting the to include special ed liaison

process for consistent transparency and delivery of student screening and test scores to parents/caregivers and working on a process to have truant/tardy notices





- **Clarity on how students are identified for special ed evaluations Teacher training for conducting evaluations**
- **Instruments used for testing**
- **Criteria for determining if students can't be serviced in district**

SEPAC Community on Bedford's special education process for evaluations

Evaluations

Collaboration Request: (already in process) Marianne Vines will present to the

Social Inclusion for Special Education

- sports, musicals, clubs, etc.)
- Lunch social options
- **Recess social options**

Collaboration Request: Planning to schedule a meeting with Principals, Assistant Principals, Marianne Vines and Special Ed Program Administrator from each school to establish inclusion options

Support for Special Ed students to participate in extracurricular activities (e.g.

Recreation Options for Students in Special Ed

- Students in special ed need additional support for communication and supervision to be successful in recreational activities (e.g. sports, summer adventures, etc)
- Students in Extended School Year (ESY) often have to pick between summer school or camp due to scheduling
- Participation in recreational activities helps students develop their social skills

We received 72 responses back with high interest from Davis and Lane families Hamiliton and Marianne Vines on options.

Collaboration Request: (already in process) Survey was sent to all special ed families. looking for summer and school year recreation options. Currently working with Amy



Exploring American Sign Language (ASL) for BHS

- Latin is currently the best option at BHS for many special ed students to fulfill their world languages graduation requirement
- SEPAC is currently collecting data on 2 and 4 colleges in New England that offer Latin and ASL as world language options
 - ASL would provide an opportunity for a more inclusive learning environment for more students in special education

2022-2023 school year

Collaboration Request: SEPAC is working on a proposal for consideration to BHS and the School Committee to offer ASL as a world language offered at BHS for the

Additional Topics of Interest

- Bedford MCAS Gap for Special Education Students
- Discipline for Special Education Students and suspension rate
- Annual SEPAC anonymous survey for feedback and areas for collaboration

Get Involved with Bedford SEPAC

SEPAC Website: https://bedfordsepac.com
SEPAC Facebook Page: <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/434458923803271</u>
SEPAC email: <u>bedfordmasepac@gmail.com</u>

