

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**

Thank You!

Marianne Vines

Phil Conrad

Parents

Students

Special Educators

Teachers

**Special Ed Program
Administrators**

**School
Committee**

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

Agenda

- **Overview**
- **Areas of interest for collaboration**
- **Questions**

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**

Literacy

- “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 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 to include special ed liaison

Evaluations

- **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**

Collaboration Request: (already in process) Marianne Vines will present to the SEPAC Community on Bedford's special education process for evaluations

Social Inclusion for Special Education

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

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

Collaboration Request: (already in process) Survey was sent to all special ed families. We received 72 responses back with high interest from Davis and Lane families looking for summer and school year recreation options. Currently working with Amy Hamilton and Marianne Vines on options.

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

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 2022-2023 school year

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: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/434458923803271>
- SEPAC email: bedfordmasepac@gmail.com

Questions