

9-22-2011 Minutes
Billerica Parent Advisory Council for Special Education
First General Meeting Agenda

Meeting was convened:

Michele volunteered to chair the meeting.

Officers present: Michele DeParasis, Treasurer; Donna Gadbois, Contact Person

Election/officers/directors

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The following officers were elected:

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Chair Michele DeParasis

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Co-chair Susan Hopkins

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Treasurer Open

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Secretary Suzanne Sullivan

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Public Relations Open

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Contact Person Donna Gadbois

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Webmaster Mike Papetti

Tammi Gomes volunteered to maintain district BPAC Sp bulletin boards. We added the Library, Senior Center and Recreation Department and 4 Market Basket locations to 9 schools to post flyers. Sue Hopkins will assist with bulletin boards as well.

Sandra Libby volunteered to create opportunities for community outreach and events.

Open positions of Treasurer and Public Relations will be posted. Candidates will be selected at future meetings.

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Keeping it Positive

BPAC Sped officers and members are committed to maintain respectful communications with school staff and administration

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Not every parent represents the PAC.

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Facebook Page will be monitored.

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Facebook page is an open forum.

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Posters should feel free to speak their minds, but must be respectful.

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Any postings considered to be abusive or disrespectful will be removed.

We will continue to speak about ways to encourage a more positive, collaborative dialogue throughout the year.

Creating Effective Teacher-Parent Collaborations

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Joanne noticed that the HS video feed was playing in the Lecture Hall and displayed HS and local activities and fundraisers.

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Michele will contact the Secretary at the HS to see if we can promote our own activities on that feed.

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Michele will ask Mr. Garas, at the Locke if we can put events on their newsfeed, or if it is controlled by Channel One.

Bringing parents in to work together for support and common goals

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Parents who are having a great experience should be invited to come and support those who are struggling.

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Ongoing.

Community Involvement

BPAC Sp will look for opportunities to participate in events throughout the community. Suggestions made were:

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Challenger League

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Opportunities for High School Community service. Julia will explore opportunities with Colleen Fitzgerald and report back at our next meeting.

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Since many of our students are already involved with the Police Athletic League we should find ways to promote events, build awareness and encourage participation.

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Doreen will be our liaison

2011-2012 General Meeting Schedule

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Basic Rights Presentation

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Encourage registration

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Joanne Barry will contact Mr. Ponti about Instant Messenger announcement.

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Michele will create text for message

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Basic Rights presentation will be announced at Town Meeting, beginning Oct. 4, 2011

School involvement

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Principals are more open to working collaboratively with BPAC.

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General Meetings are scheduled at each school (see General meeting Schedule.)

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PTO involvement

BPAC members are encouraged to be involved in school PTO's

We will discuss at future meetings to be held in schools.

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Adopt a school

BPAC will look for parents to take a school to monitor bulletin boards and Got Books Bins and be a liason with each school and PTO. We will revisit at our next meeting.

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Julia Hannon has started a parent support group at Project Support to help families with newly diagnosed disabilities. She will speak with Lorraine Huard to explore the possibility of the PAC attending a meeting to introduce us and encourage participation with the PAC. She also suggested that we attempt last year's unsuccessful "Preschool Coffee" a little later during the year as part of the Parent Support Group. Julia will report back at our next meeting.

Scholarship

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The Billerica Parent Advisory Council for Special Education is pleased to announce that in June of 2011, Ms. Katie Skara, a 2011 Billerica High School graduate, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship through The Billerica Scholarship Foundation. Katie currently attends the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA majoring in pre-med.

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We would like to offer the same scholarship this year.

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The Scholarship will need to be voted on later this year.

Treasurer's Report 2010-2011

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Michele presented year end treasurer's report

- BPAC will create a budget for funds available to be used where they will create positive outcomes for our community and the Billerica Parent Advisory Council for Special Education.

- We will review at our next business meeting or e-board.

- Michele will continue as treasurer until position is filled

- Michele will train new treasurer.

- Joanne will approach Mr. Ponti about the use of district resources to make copies.

Fundraising

Got Books

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Proceeds and payouts to schools will be submitted to Principals with each quarterly payout.

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Presentation to principals by Matt Libby and Michele has helped to garner support for the fundraiser.

Spreadsheet will be forwarded to principals after each payout to show each school's proceeds.

Checks are still three months lagging. Last payout for 2010/2012 will be made once the check for June arrives.

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Change in accounting/ .06 cents per pound.

70/30 school/BPAC split will continue

Matt Libby, Public Relations Director for Got Books will continue to provide coupons and Promotions for teachers

Book drives

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Several schools have already expressed interest in having book drives. Got Books will provide a large container specifically for these events. Suggestions for events will include:

Recycling Day in Spring

Library Book Sale

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Sandra and Donna will contact library staff to coordinate

Book Drives at apartment complexes and businesses throughout the community to be coordinated with school principal and the BPAC.

Fundraiser will be announced each evening at Town Meeting beginning October 4, 2011.

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Michele will create and provide text for announcement.

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Good Search Fundraiser

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Ongoing

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Will be discussed at our next general meeting.

Meeting was adjourned.