

BILLERICA PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

GENERAL MEETING

Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2010

Opening:

This meeting of the Billerica Parent Advisory Council for Special Education (further known as BPACSP) was called to order at 7:05 pm on , Thursday, November 18, 2010 in the Billerica Memorial High School library, 35 River Street, Billerica, MA 01821 by Susan Hopkins, Chairperson.

Board Members Present:

Sue Hopkins, Chairperson, Kerri Papetti, Vice Chair, Michele DeParasis, Treasurer, Mike Papetti, Webmaster. As well as 2 parent members.

A. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

B. Approval of Minutes

There were no minutes to approve as the last meeting was a presentation entitled, "Basic Rights in Special Education".

C. Open Discussion/Issue Agenda Items

- 1) Susan Hopkins, Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting and the agenda was distributed.
- 2) A meeting between the BPACSP and Mr. Ponti, Director of Special Education took place earlier today as well at 3pm in the Special Education Office.
 - a. BPACSP and Mr. Ponti are happy to welcome Mrs. Joanne Barry, Vice Chairperson of the Billerica School Committee, in the role of School Committee liason to the BPACSP.
 - i. Mr. Ponti submitted a draft copy of the Parents Guide to Special Education in Billerica Handbook. This handbook will outline all Special Education programs in the town of Billerica. As well as helpful information on how to enter and exit these programs. A copy will be available to any parent in Billerica who requests one. The BPACSP will also make a copy available on our website – (www.bpacsp.org) The deadline on this booklet is TBD.

- ii. The BPACSP also discussed communication issues concerning the recent change in hours for the Compass Program students at Parker Elementary School. Parents were not notified in a timely manner. Mr. Ponti explained that the person responsible for notifying parents had a personal emergency and letters did not get out in time. Mr. Ponti apologized for any inconvenience this may have caused.
 - iii. The BPACSP and Mr. Ponti discussed the fact that Parker Elementary School received an “incomplete” on portfolios because of a paperwork error. Mr. Ponti reports that this will be rectified.
 - b) Michele DeParasis, Treasurer, reported that the BPACSP’s newest fundraiser, “Good Search” (www.goodsearch.com) made \$16.77 only 3 days after signing up.
 - c) Michele DeParasis also reports that she has received a statement from “Got Books” for the month of September. She reports that checks have been cut totalling \$483.07 and are ready for distribution. These checks will be distributed to the schools via Central Services.
 - d) Mr. Libby from “Got Books” has expressed interest in meeting with the BPACSP, as well as the school PTA’s and principals to discuss new ways to increase earnings. Mr. Libby is our new “Got Books” P.R. person.
- 3) Logo Contest
- a. Dr. Serio has committed to support the Logo Contest with the district art teachers. Sue Hopkins and Michele DeParasis are scheduled to meet with Mr. Correia, the fine arts director, to increase support among the art teachers.
 - b. Logo contest rules, submission instructions and prize information can be found on the BPACSP’s website at www.bpacsp.org

D. New Business

1) GOT BOOKS

- a. Mr. Libby from “Got Books” has proposed a change to our current contract. Got Books would pay .05 cents a pound and eliminate the monthly service fees. We countered with a request for .06 cents a pound, retaining our 70/30 split. We have agreed to .06 cents per pound on a trial basis for six months. If we are unable to produce more revenue, then we will drop back to .05 cents per pound. The board unanimously approved the proposed Got Books contract.

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2) SPEAKERS

- a. Billerica Homeschool Association will make a half hour presentation at our meeting on January 20, 2010.
- b. Gentile and Ross would like to present “When it’s time to call an attorney” at our meeting in March, 2010.

3) PAC FORUM / WEBSITE

a. Our website (www.bpacsp.org) now has a forum to discuss meetings, and popular general topics. When visiting our website click on the “forum” link to sign up.

b. Mike Papetti is working on the website to the BPACSP’s email group created through our website.

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4) GOALS FOR THE YEAR

- a. Finish the parent guide to Special Education in Billerica Handbook
- b. Foster positive relationships with parents and the Special Education Dept.
- c. Encourage parents to attend our meetings by offering support groups.

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E. Agenda for Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held in the Billerica Memorial High School’s library on December 16, 2010 from 7 to 9pm. A brief business meeting will be held and then we will offer the rest of the meeting as a “support group night”.

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Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm by Susan Hopkins.

Minutes submitted by: Kerri Papetti, Vice Chairperson BPACSP

Approved by: Susan Hopkins, Chairperson BPACSP